Workers Of The World, Unite!

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1946--A Year Of Great Labor Battles In U. S.

See Page 6

TRUMAN WRECKS HOUSING PROGRAM

CIO "Big Three" Adopt Demands For Wage Rises

Both the CIO steelworkers and electrical workers unions last week joined the United Auto Workers in adopting new wage demands. While the UAW has called for a specific general wage raise of 23½ cents an hour, the steel and electrical workers leaders refused to name any sum, merely asking for "substantial increases."

The UAW demand is based on the Nathan report findings that real wages are down 21 per cent due to price rises and that unprecedented profits enable the corporations to raise wages 25 per cent without increasing prices.

So far as any unified pattern of wage demands is concerned, CIO emphasis is now being placed on such "fringe" demands as portal-to-portal pay and company-financed, union-controlled health and welfare funds.

Both of these important demands have come to the fore as a result of wartime and postwar strike victories by the militant miners. Portal-to-portal pay in industries other than mining has been upheld by recent federal court decision.

The steel, auto and electrical workers unions have simultaneously started suits against the major corporations for what may amount to billions of dollars in retroactive portal-to-portal pay. A bill is pending in Congress, however, to set a statute of limitations of two years on back portal-to-portal wages. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other Big Business groups are trying to get Congress to pass a bill limiting such back payments to only one year.

ESCALATOR CLAUSE

Of particular concern to the CIO workers is some form of contract provision that will protect any wage gains from quick shrinkage due to rising living costs. The most effective demand would be the inclusion in all contracts of an escalator clause based on a sliding scale of wages principle. Like the Sinclair contract won by the CIO Oil Workers, this would provide automatic wage increases for every cost-of-living rise. If prices fell, the basic wage rates would remain as an outright gain in living standards.

No such imperative and progressive demand is being raised by the CIO. The CIO leaders are apparently fearful of undertaking the militant fight that any such basic wage demand would require. Their wage demands are limited to compensation for previous losses in real earnings.

In fact, the CIO leaders are putting forth their wage demands, limited as they are, with preliminary assurances to the corporations that they don't want and don't intend a militant fight. CIO and United Steelworkers President Philip Murray clearly intimated last week he is ready to make a substantial compromise to avoid a struggle.

No call for CIO members to prepare for unified, militant action came from the joint meeting of steel, auto and electrical union top leaders held in Pittsburgh last week. Murray let it be known that the meeting was "to clear information and, not to set joint strategy."

Murray is ready to settle for far less than the CIO workers need and can win if they resolutely push their demands with a unified program of militant action. It is up to the CIO ranks, the local militants, to demand such a united action program.

Italian Trotskyist Wins Election To City Council

(Special to The Militant)

FOGGIA, Italy, Dec. 2—The Foggia section of the Communist Workers Party (POC), Italian section of the Fourth International, succeeded in having Romeo Mangano elected to the Municipal Council in the Nov. 24 elections.

A total of 1,500 preferential votes were tabulated for Mangano. Another 1,500 votes for him were invalidated by the Central Electoral Bureau because the workers added revolutionary slogans to their ballots.

Romeo Mangano is the first member of the POC, formed in 1944, to be elected to public office. This first electoral experience of the Italian Trotskyists shows the possibilities for the development of a mass revolutionary party in Italy.

Wolf At The Door

Wall Street Speeds Drive For Anti-Labor Legislation

Wall Street's drive for vicious anti-labor legislation is preceeding steadily.

William Green warned in a letter to all AFL officers Dec. 18 that Congress will attempt to impose "illegal union shop agreements, restrict the exercise of the right to strike, subject workers to civil suits for damages for participation in strikes in alleged violations of contracts and, in addition, enact further objectionable labor legislation similar to the notorious Case bill which was passed at the last session of Congress."

Green's fears are only too well founded. At virtually every press conference, the President intimates his January message to Congress will demand union-crippling legislation. With almost one voice Congressmen echo their readiness to sink the blade in labor's back.

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., Chairman of General Motors, on Dec. 19 outlined the anti-labor laws Wall Street wants. Speaking before the Boston Chamber of Commerce, the industrial mogul said unions could be crippled in two ways: (1) "by dissolving unions into parts," thus effectively destroying the fighting strength derived from labor unity; (2) "by limiting the power of any one union as now constituted" to strike a large part of "any one industry," thus grinding away the edge of labor's strike weapon.

Sloan outlined a nine-point legislative program to hog-tie the unions:

(1) Grant employers permission to bombard workers with propaganda during working hours.

(2) Prohibit unions from bargaining collectively on an industry-wide basis.

(3) Let the courts intervene when decisions of government agencies favor the unions.

(4) Hold a union collectively responsible for any breach of contract committed by members.

(5) Prohibit unionization of foremen.

(6) Outlaw the closed shop.

(7) Intervene in the internal affairs of unions under guise of assuring "democracy."

(8) Open the books of the union to public inspection and prohibit unions from contributing to or supporting political activities.

(9) Grant employers unlimited rights to petition for bargaining elections.

UAW-CIO Board Appeals To AFL For Joint Action

(Special To The Militant)

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—Top leaders of the CIO United Automobile Workers last week urged "leaders of the American Federation of Labor to respond to CIO President Murray's call for labor unity against those who would destroy the labor movement."

This appeal was issued by the 22-man UAW International Executive Board at the end of its 10-day session at the Hotel Picadilly here. The Board, which previously announced new industry-wide demands for a 23½-cent an hour wage increase, also pledged "unity of action" with other CIO unions in the wage fight."

The Board adopted a motion by President Walter Reuther proposing that a united labor conference of the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods should organize a unified campaign against anti-labor laws, establish machinery to settle jurisdictional disputes and coordinate labor's fight for higher wages.

The motion also proposed the setting up of a joint defense fund by the united labor conference. This was described by a Board spokesmen as "really amounting to a strike fund."

A national united labor conference is needed, said the statement, as "a counter-offensive to turn back this drive of corporate reaction." It charged that the government "has washed its hands of the responsibility of providing homes for veterans" and has "turned back the clock of progress in labor relations by invoking injunctive powers against a union at the behest of the National Association of Manufacturers." It warned that "a reactionary Congress is formulating legislation that would outlaw legitimate and basic union activities."

Shortage Gives Impetus To Drive To Scuttle All Controls On Rent

By Ruth Benson

The two-pronged drive of the construction and real estate profiteers to wreck the low-cost housing program and destroy rent ceilings was pushed forward last week by Truman when he scuttled the Veterans Emergency Housing plan.

New mansions for the rich, more penthouse apartments, race-tracks, night clubs and movie palaces will mushroom under Truman's Dec. 14 executive order. But it will aggravate the plight of millions of veterans and workers who need low-cost, low-rent dwellings.

Truman's housing decontrol order will channel almost all building materials into the luxury market. It will worsen the housing shortage. This, in turn, is adding great impetus to the drive of the big real estate interests to get the new Congress to raise or remove

TRUMAN

rent ceilings on all existing rental dwellings.

Already Representative Jesse Wolcott of Michigan has announced that he is working on a "formula" to permit landlords to add "increased costs" to their rentals, a pretext under which rents can be raised enormously, although landlord profits are already highest in history.

MAIN POINTS

The main points of Truman's order will (1) wipe out the $10,000 ceiling on new homes; (2) eliminate veterans' priorities and provide permits for anyone who wishes to build, regardless of need; (3) allow construction of 40 per cent more non-residential buildings; (4) change the previous rental ceiling of $80 on new apartments to an "average of $80" for entire projects.

Veteran and labor spokesmen denounce the scheme as an attack upon the living conditions of the poor. Building corporations approve it and are calculating their swelling profits.

At Albany the New York State convention of the American Veterans Committee adopted a resolution not only condemning Truman's action, but holding "the President and both major parties responsible" for scuttling the veteran's housing program.

In Washington, Ray Sawyer, commander of Amvets, warned that "the promise of immediate low-cost housing is gone" for veterans, 90 per cent of whom earn less than $2,500 a year. Only new rental units and rapid construction of prefabricated homes, he added, were still possible "if the slogan of 'two vets for every garage' is not to become a reality." But these were among the methods thrown overboard by Truman.

AN INSULT

CIO legislative representative John W. Edleman lashed the Truman order, pointing out that "race tracks, night clubs and beer joints will proliferate." He called the new permit system "as tragic and dangerous an incitation to bitterness as a decoration awarded to a war hero when he can't get a job. The system is an actual insult to people needing homes."

Building profiteers were happy but looking for even bigger loot. Their sole complaint was that Truman hadn't lifted all controls. The National Association of Real Estate Boards demanded that Truman now "turn the industry loose."

At New York's Commodore Hotel, Arthur W. Binns, president of the National Home and Property Owners Foundation, explained what the industry means when it says that if it is "turned loose," it will provide homes for the workers and veterans.

In Philadelphia, he said, "the addition of 100 homes in the suburbs acted to make available

(Continued on Page 2)

Support Grows For Labor Party In Flint Area

FLINT, Mich., Dec. 21 — The movement for an independent Labor Party is growing here, following the action of Chevrolet Local 659, CIO United Auto Workers, which recently set up a 10-man committee and fulltime organizer to direct the work of organizing a Labor Party in the Sixth Congressional District.

The **Flint Weekly Review**, official Greater Flint CIO Council publication, gives editorial support to the drive. Its Dec. 13 issue declares:

"Recent events have made it plain that labor should wait no longer to start independent political action. Long recognized as an ultimate goal of the labor movement, a Labor Party for the interests of all those who are the victims of the economic and political programs (of the Democrats and Republicans) . . . has become a necessity . . .

"Here in Flint there is a movement already under way in a number of local unions . . . No one can say yet if this is the actual beginning of a successful Labor Party, either for Michigan or for the nation. What we can say is that it is a beginning in the right direction, and that sooner or later it is the step that labor will have to take."

At its Dec. 15 membership meeting, Buick Local 599 overwhelmingly adopted a resolution in favor of collaborating with the Chevrolet Local 659 committee and to set up a similar 10-man committee. In presenting the motion, Local 599 President Ben Woodard declared that in his opinion, all locals should do the same thing.

Other big UAW locals in Flint which are already on record in favor of a Labor Party include Fisher and A. C. Spark Plug.

Halt Rent Rises!

Statement Of The Socialist Workers Party Political Committee

The workers' standard of living, already undermined by high prices, is now under assault on the rent front.

The landlords are conspiring to smash rent controls. The capitalist press is backing them up. Truman and the 80th Congress are preparing to lift rents on a nation-wide scale. At the same time they are scuttling all plans for government-financed low-rent housing.

During the war, construction of new housing was suspended, but people were led to believe that after the war new homes would be provided. Since V-J Day, the housing shortage has only grown worse. Disastrous fires in many cities with a heavy toll of human life have tragically demonstrated the mounting danger of bad and over-crowded housing.

The workers have been hit by a pincers movement—from one side a smashing barrage of the real estate interests for rent increases; from the other side an all-out attack on government-financed housing. Every veteran, every worker and his family is vitally affected by this attack.

What is to be done?

This burning problem demands the attention of the entire trade union movement. The trade unions must lead the whole populace in the struggle for new housing and against rent increases. They must serve notice they will resist rent increases with rent strikes. They must serve notice they will battle any attempt of the brutal real estate sharks to evict families into the streets. It is up to the trade unions to show all the low-income groups how militant methods can defeat the landlords and their government agents.

The campaign against rent increases must begin at once.

Local unions, union councils, and all labor bodies should immediately adopt resolutions protesting the threatened rent increases. These resolutions should be publicized on the widest possible basis. Every union body should at once begin organizing tenants for defensive action against the greedy landlords.

Campaigns to force municipal and state legislation freezing rents and barring evictions must be launched. This would serve as a safeguard against the lifting of Federal controls.

The unions should demand that the $18,000,000,000 (billions) military budget for 1947 be used for the construction of low-rent housing. Build homes — not atom bombs!

The unions should demand municipal and state low-rent housing projects, financed through a heavy tax on the war profiteers.

The government is yielding to the pressure of the profiteering landlords. Only determined mass resistance—large-scale rent strikes, anti-eviction demonstrations — can stay the hand of the grasping landlords and their government tools. The trade unions must take the lead in this struggle to defend the rights of the workers and veterans to a decent home.

Labor Party, Red-Baiting Debated At Convention Of California CIO

By J. Blake

(Special to The Militant)

SANTA CRUZ, Calif.—A militant left-wing minority made its voice heard at the California State CIO convention here Dec. 12-15 by fighting for a resolution favoring formation of a labor party now and by opposing red-baiting.

The labor party resolution came to the convention floor after a five-hour discussion in committee. It was signed by four United Auto Workers Local 406 delegates and submitted as a minority report by 406 delegate John Murphy, of Long Beach.

Jack Shepherd and George Harvey, United Steelworkers Local 2058, and Louis Ciccone, UAW Local 216, Los Angeles, as a minority on the resolutions committee opposed adoption of the state executive board's red-baiting policy statement. This statement supported the national CIO's declaration that the CIO "resents and rejects efforts of the Communist Party . . . to interfere in the affairs of the CIO" and that it would not "tolerate" such interference.

Shepherd condemned the statement as a "capitulation to red-baiting" and discriminatory. He charged that those who undermine the CIO's democratic policies help to destroy the very unity for which many speakers had appealed.

STALINISTS CRAWL

Supporters of the Communist Party, on the other hand, made it clear the Stalinists favored the red-baiters' resolution. Henry Gliksohn, Longshore and Warehousemen's Local 1-6, San Francisco, pledged himself "as a Communist (Stalinist)" and his party to "loyally carry out the decision."

So many delegates, while opposing Stalinist policies, defended the Communist Party's democratic rights and condemned its capitulation, that the chairman commented: "I've never seen a convention where so many people opposed to the Communist Party defend the Communists."

The debate on the labor party resolution was the high point of the convention. Murphy, who submitted the minority resolution, asked: "Why are fifteen million workers, powerfully organized on the economic field, so weak on the political field?" The majority report, he said, gave no answer except "we were betrayed," then invited more "betrayals" by advocating continuation of political coalition with the parties and candidates of Big Business.

SHOWS POSSIBILITY

He showed the possibility of forming a labor party now by citing unions which have passed resolutions favoring a labor party and the high percentage of workers who have supported the idea in polls.

Dave Jenkins, Stalinist director of the California Labor School and delegate from the Marine Cooks and Stewards, San Francisco, opposed the labor party supporters as "revolutionary phrase-mongers" and tried to link them with "outside influences."

The "outside influences" were **The Militant** and two Socialist Workers Party pamphlets, **American Workers Need a Labor Party** and **Build A Labor Party Now**, which had been distributed to the delegates. Jenkins brazenly misquoted an article by M. Stein in **The Militant**.

His falsification and red-baiting were sharply assailed by Howard Rosen, one of the UAW Local 406 delegates who signed the labor party resolution. Labeling the labor party proposal as "radical" did not determine its correctness, he pointed out. "The issues are still before us — independent political action or coalition."

VOICE VOTE

The convention majority, by a voice vote, adopted the anti-communist policy statement and endorsed PAC coalition politics. President Morris Zussman prevented a vote on the labor party resolution by ruling it was not "in conformity with CIO national policy." Despite protests even from some majority supporters, his ruling was upheld by a small vote.

Expulsions Fail To End CP Crisis

The crisis gripping the American Communist Party (Stalinist), reflected in wholesale expulsions for "leftism," has for the first time in 16 years produced an organized internal opposition to the official Stalinist leaders and policies.

It is clear from the many documents of dissenting groups that have come into our possession that the opposition of the CP rises chiefly from the working-class layers of the party.

How wide-spread and persistent is the opposition struggle within the CP is shown by the fact that whole leading branches, both on the east and west coasts, have been ruthlessly "liquidated" or "reorganized" and most of their members expelled.

Two outstanding examples are the cases of the CP machinists club in San Francisco and the P. R. Communist Party Club, Section 1, Bronx, called not long ago by the New York State party secretary "the best club in the Bronx."

Some hint as to the scope of the opposition is given in the December issue of **Political Affairs**, "theoretical" organ of the CP. Months after the expulsion of the San Francisco machinists, it runs an extensive article on "The Struggles Against Deviations and Factionalism in San Francisco" which admits that the San Francisco group "have connections outside of San Francisco, and even outside of the state."

What is of even greater concern to the Stalinist leaders, as **Political Affairs** points out, is that the "group of expelled have organized themselves and meet regularly . . . They are engaged in the circulation of documents, some prepared locally, others written by persons who have been expelled elsewhere . . . They hope, through the use of their documents and through personal contacts, to re-establish their faction within the Party."

The utter decay and demoralization of the Stalinist party and its leaders is demonstrated especially by the issues over which most of the expulsions for "leftism" take place. These are not controversies about revolutionary strategy or basic program. They involve literally the most elementary principles upheld by even the most backward unionists.

Thus, the CP machinists club in San Francisco was broken up and its members expelled because they refused to organize a "rank-and-file back-to-work movement" to break the joint strike of AFL Machinists Lodge 38 in San Francisco and CIO Steelworkers Local 1304 in Alameda County.

According to the article in **Political Affairs** against these "left deviationists," they insisted on supporting a strike led by union leaders who had "a Trotskyist line." They did not agree with the party leaders who "stressed the need for an independent program that would free the machinists from the disastrous consequences" of the militant strike policies of the union leaders.

Among other things the "majority of machinist comrades" opposed were the Stalinist leaders' instructions that "it was essential to prevent the tie-up of the waterfront and troopships" and "the necessity for an organized retreat." The article complains about the "passivity on the part of some comrades" and "their inability to give leadership to the rank-and-file strikers along the lines indicated by the party's policies." That is, the CP machinists refused to be strikebreakers and the striking workers were very hostile to any "rank-and-file back-to-work" movement.

Not only were CP workers expelled for refusing to be strikebreakers on the economic front, they were expelled for objecting to strikebreaking on the political front.

The key issue which led to the expulsions in the Bronx P. R. Club was the club members' criticism of the manner in which the Stalinist leaders backed capitalist party candidates. They didn't even object to the false principle of backing Wall Street's candidates. As they state in "An S.O.S. To All Communists," they objected merely because "the CP declared a 'moratorium' on pressure and issued 'blank checks' " to the Democratic Party candidates Mead and Lehman, who were calling for support of a "tough policy" against the Soviet Union and conducting a vicious anti-red, anti-Communist election campaign. "Unless the CP counsels pressure and only qualified support for these men, it will encourage and even hurry their reactionary plans," says the P. R. Club's statement.

It was because of such views as these, a protest against the CP giving "unqualified support" to red-baiting, anti-Soviet, war-mongering Wall Street politicians, that first one member, "Comrade E.", who wrote a critical letter to the CP leaders was expelled and then the whole P. R. Club was "reorganized."

The club was finally pressured into accepting the expulsion of "E." by the State Committee, but 19 members signed an appeal to the National Committee. Then, "the National, State, County and Section Committees have grilled and intimidated our club, attempting to change our decisions by fake transfers in, and mass expulsions out. Our whole Executive Committee was removed, but this removal was not recognized by the club."

Thus, it is the elementary issue of CP strikebreaking on the economic and political fronts, rather than any basic disagreements with the Stalinist program, that unites the growing opposition tendencies in the CP.

How are the dissenters met? At the first voice of criticism, they are ruthlessly expelled. But in this case, such expulsions fail to silence the critics. Expulsions are aggravating the internal crisis, provoking more doubts, stimulating more opposition.

Now the Stalinist leaders are forced to carry on against the dissenters a campaign of so-called "polemic"—that is, in Stalinist practice, a smear campaign. Naturally, the charge of "Trotskyism" is the first to be hurled. And the dissenters are immediately branded "factionalists." Every such characterization, as usual, is false to the core.

The new opposition in the CP are as yet merely left-Stalinists, who defend Stalinism internationally, while objecting to its vilest expression in the American Communist Party. They are "factionalists" only in the sense that any CP member who raises a critical voice against any policy of the CP leaders is called a "factionalist."

(This is the second in a series of articles on the crisis in the Communist Party.)

Latest Statistics Reveal Housing Shortage Worse

By Evelyn Atwood

Not a single new apartment house was built in New York City in the first 10 months of this year, according to figures released on Dec. 13 by Dr. N. T. Saxl, Commissioner of Housing and Buildings. The highly - touted housing program fizzled out in a trickle of one and two-family houses, together with the remodeling of a few others, amounting to a total of 3,022 permanent units.

Six months ago, E. B. Butler, Chairman of the N. Y. C. Housing Authority, estimated the city shortage at 861,100 dwellings. Today more than 350,000 families are doubled up with relatives and friends, rooming in crowded quarters or separated through lack of houses.

Even the temporary apartments to be supplied for veterans by Federal, State and City agencies ended in dismal failure. At present there are 765,000 veterans returned to this city. In the past 10 months they were provided with only 2,352 units in Quonset huts; 1,240 dormitory rooms for unmarried students and 1,900 apartments. At best—if the temporary dwelling plans are completed — only 8,200 more will be accommodated.

The great majority are finding make-shift shelter only in "trailers, tourist camps, furnished rooms and in the homes of relatives and friends," states the Dec. 14 N. Y. Times.

"The magnitude of the demand for new homes is indicated by the 85,000 applications on file with the N. Y. C. Housing Authority for permanent or temporary apartments of any kind. These applications include only veterans of World War II."

According to a recent survey of the Department of Commerce, only 14 per cent of the veterans can afford to buy houses averaging $6,700. But builders have been producing houses mostly at the full $10,000 price allowed by the National Housing Authority. With Truman's recent capitulation to the real estate hogs, the cost of new homes will go even higher.

A study just completed by the N. Y. C. Veterans Service Center shows that for a veteran to be able to own a $10,000 house, with a down payment of $1,000, he would need an income of about $90 a week! He would need the same income to pay the $80 a month — and up — on future apartment houses. More than half of the American workers earn less than $130 a month.

While the veterans are given the runaround, there are 550,000 other families in New York City confined to slum areas with no hope for escape. Occupants of these old-law tenement firetraps are mainly large families with many children. The U. S. Department of Labor in 1936 warned that "infant mortality is twice as great in congested houses as elsewhere. Deaths from tuberculosis in New York City are greater in old-law tenements than in new. In seven cities juvenile delinquency averaged 101 per cent greater in slums than in non-slum areas."

The housing crisis has sharpened since January of this year, when the national shortage amounted to 3,500,000 units, and 1,200,000 city families were living doubled up. It was then estimated that, exclusive of farm areas, 1,260,000 units must be built each year for the next 10 years to even partly meet the acute need. And this would not provide relief for those who are forced to live in the 6,000,000 dwellings which are literally falling apart.

NO PROGRAM

Of the 37 million homes in the U. S., 11 million (almost a third) are without running water; 15 million lack an inside private toilet; 12 million are without bathtubs; 3 million are overcrowded. There is no program even on paper for the wretched inhabitants of these substandard dwellings.

One of the most serious consequences of this housing crisis is the sharp rise in evictions. So far this year the OPA and municipal courts have granted 17,752 evictions, almost as many as for 1944 and 1945 combined. In New York City, 7,807 evictions were granted in the first 11 months, and these are expected to mount week by week.

Bilbo Calls Bribes He Got 'An Old Southern Custom'

By Joseph Hansen

How a capitalist politician makes a seat in the United States Senate pay off like a seat in the stock exchange was graphically revealed last week in hearings of the Senate War Investigating Committee when Mississippi war contractors came to the defense of Theodore G. ("Poison-mouth") Bilbo. They didn't really bribe him, they said; he "was needin' it."

BILBO

Bilbo, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, advocate of lynch violence against the Negroes, and banner-bearer of the Democratic Party in the Bourbon South, quietly sucked on a cigar butt as one of his war profiteer friends jovially declared, "We always elect poor folks in Mississippi."

Mike T. Morrissey, who got $115,302 for rental of equipment at Keesler Air Field, said, "I just happened to drive in to see Bilbo" when the Senator was starting to dig a 23-acre artificial lake with no equipment but a mule.

Warm-hearted Morrissey was so touched by Bilbo's plight that he finished up the project with bull-dozers at a cost of $3,672. Besides this, Morrissey "loaned" Bilbo $6,000 which he made no attempt to collect, assumed $48,000 of "losses" in operations on Bilbo's 3,300 acre estate, and donated $1,800 to Bilbo's private church.

As a Christmas present one year, Morrissey slipped Bilbo a $1,919 Cadillac. Bilbo explained that such gifts were "just an old Southern custom." He cited similar gifts to other Mississippi Senators and Governors and to his well-known fellow-Democrats, President Roosevelt and President Truman.

Having excavated the lake, Morrissey "happened to see the Senator and a mule startin' to" dig a swimming pool. Morrissey sprang to the rescue, completing the work with bull-dozers for the poverty-stricken Senator.

John R. Junkins, who got a $500,000 war contract, did the $1,500 cementing job on Bilbo's swimming pool. "I just happened to be going by," he said, "and saw Bilbo gettin' ready to mix cement." Junkins too decided it pays to support religion and generously contributed $500 to Bilbo's church fund.

M. T. Reed, who totalled $43,000,000 in war contracts, said he was "just ridin' by the Senator's when I noticed his house needed paintin' bad. So I did it." The bill was $1,790. Reed's religious sentiments were so deep he contributed $3,500 to Bilbo's church and the Christmas spirit moved him to the tune of a $517 present for Bilbo.

B. L. Knost, who also got a whack at the Keesler Air Field melon, didn't say where he was ridin' but it was close enough to lay $600 on the pulpit in Bilbo's church. Besides this he gave Bilbo $5,000 for election purposes, and $3,750 to Bilbo's secretary, Edward P. Terry, and loaned Bilbo $1,200, of which $450 is still unpaid. Another "loan" of $2,000 to Bilbo's secretary is likewise unpaid.

F. T. Knewton, another Bilbo-backer who dipped into the $14,000,000 Keesler Air Field gravy, handed the Senator $25,000. He "loaned" Bilbo's secretary $3,750 which was never repaid. And then to square his conscience with religion he dropped $750 in the plate for Bilbo's church.

Singling out the $25,000 item, Bilbo swore: "I didn't get a damned cent." In a statement prepared for the Investigating Committee's record, the Senator declared that despite the solicitude of his very warm friends, he is "a very poor man and heavily involved in debt."

A. B. Friend, Bilbo's campaign manager in both 1940 and 1946, happens to be a war contractor too. He agreed to hand Bilbo's private secretary, Terry, $4,350 for help in landing a $2,000,000 government job.

DEATH THREAT

Terry testified that this profitable connection came to an unhappy ending. Over the dinner table at the Lamar Hotel in Meridian, Miss., in April, 1946, Bilbo's campaign manager, in accordance with another old Southern custom, informed Terry that if "you . . . tell what you know of Senator Bilbo you'll be killed."

Twice over the telephone a courteous Southern voice again reminded Terry that if he unbuttoned his lip, death awaited him, his wife and his daughter. Terry fell victim to such an "extreme nervous condition" that he had to be hospitalized.

A group of Major Generals, Brigadier Generals and Colonels testified that "none" of the contractors recommended by Bilbo was considered capable of performing any of the major contracts by himself. So the jobs were farmed out.

These top Army men agreed that while "Senator Bilbo had been highly active in recommending Mississippi contractors," he had "done no more than was performed by practically every member of Congress in forwarding constituents' interests." Truer words were never spoken.

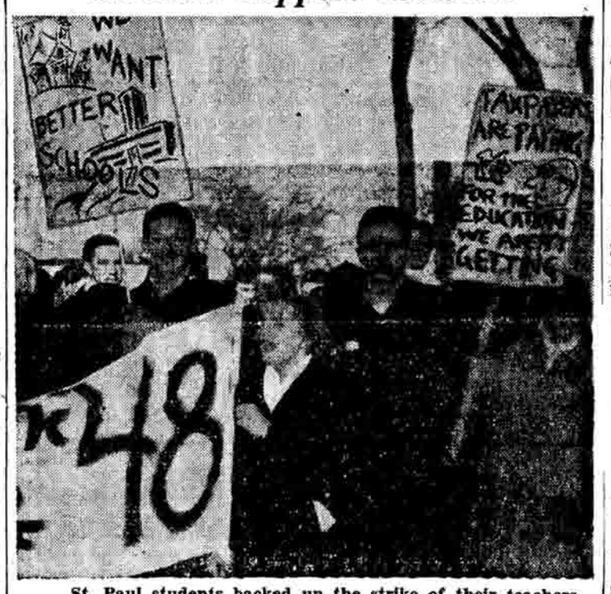
Fight Jim Crow At Seattle Skating Rink

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 21 — The Seattle Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has begun a campaign to mobilize Negro and labor organizations to fight racial discrimination at the Roller Bowl skating rink on the north side of this city, and to establish the right of Negroes to use the rink.

This action followed the refusal of the rink's management to provide skates for 25 Negro and white members of the SWP and the American Youth for Democracy, who visited the rink last Saturday night, and walked past the sign at the entrance which read: ""We cater to white trade only." Because of the determined stand of the group, skates were finally issued to them.

But on the floor of the rink, the management organized anti-Negro forces to trip the skaters and provoke a riot atmosphere. Open battle was halted only after the King County Sheriff's division appeared. Proposals for a united front for action against this discrimination have been made to the NAACP, the AYD, American Veterans' Committee and other organizations.

Students Support Teachers



St. Paul students backed up the strike of their teachers by demonstrating at the Minnesota capitol, demanding that the strike be settled so their classes can resume. They demanded better schools, too. See story on Page 6.

St. Paul Dispatch Photo.

Ku Klux Klan Death Threats Follow Burning Of Vet's Home

(Special to The Militant)

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Dec. 18—The partially constructed home of a Negro veteran, John T. Walker, was burned on Dec. 6 in this town, 25 miles from San Francisco, because he attempted to build in an area considered "out of bounds." This is the culmination of a series of threats against the Negroes of this community extending over a period of months.

The American Veterans Committee immediately came to Walker's aid. A meeting was called and the support of about 20 civic, religious, labor and fraternal organizations was pledged. They have decided to post a reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for burning the home. They are also preparing to rebuild the house.

KKK THREATS

Since these events Walker has received notes by mail from the KKK, threatening to hang him from a fiery cross. The Klan also threatened to tar and feather white people who come to his aid.

Walker and others received the first threats last July. In August a man accosted two of Walker's friends, informing them that Walker's home was going to be burned and that they and the rest of the colored people were going to be killed.

They immediately went to the District Attorney with this information and a description of the man. Nothing was done. However, after the fire this man was apprehended, questioned and then turned loose. Others who made threats have also been questioned and released.

The local press carefully omitted the names of those questioned. But it published the names and pictures of Walker's two friends. This amounts to fingering them for the KKK while protecting possible members of this reactionary organization. Despite all the information given the local police, no one has yet been arrested.

COUNCIL FORMED

At last night's meeting, the committee formed to aid Walker took steps to organize a local Council of Civic Unity. But no further decisions were made to protect Walker's life.

Anne Chester, representing the Socialist Workers Party, spoke on the necessity for getting the wide support of trade unions in the area and for the formation of defense guards to aid not only in rebuilding the home but in safeguarding the lives of these threatened people.

The CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards Union and Warehouse Local 6, were represented. The trade union movement's great power, properly used, can prevent vigilante terro.. If the organized labor movement is to continue to exist, all Ku Klux and fascist movements must be crushed. It is the responsibility of the labor movement of the entire San Francisco area to give full support and aid to the Negro people of Redwood City.

Vets And Unions Act On Housing In Youngstown

By Mark Farrell

(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Dec. 20 —A committee representing all veterans and labor organizations is preparing to tackle the veterans' housing problem in Youngstown and the surrounding area. This committee was set up by the County Commissioners to help them deal with the Cochran Park veterans' housing project.

At Tuesday night's meeting a committee of three was set up to guide the actions of the committee and to chair the meetings. The CIO Council is well represented in the body and on the governing committee. The secretary of the CIO Council veterans' committee, Marvin Weinstock, was elected secretary-treasurer of this body.

The meeting tonight was an organizational one and very little policy was discussed. A flurry of excitement ran through the hall when a man obviously representing the real estate interests made the statement that, "Now that the shackles are removed from building, just wait a while and we'll take good care of you."

VETERAN'S ANSWER

This was immediately answered by John Conroy, a steelworker representing an AVC chapter. Conroy said: "I live in a rat-infested house and when the wind blows it sweeps right through the building. I'm not going to wait for the real estate companies to build a house two years from now, which I can't afford."

Harry Braverman, representing the Socialist Workers Party, answered the speaker from the Real Estate Board by explaining the real facts of Truman's executive order. Actually, he said, it was a blow to veterans and all low-cost housing and a gift to the rent profiteers, real estate sharks and building contractors.

The committee is studying the housing problem and will bring recommendations back to the full body.

Low-Cost Housing Program Scuttled By Pres. Truman

(Continued from Page 1)

100 units in the Negro area. Those financially able moved into the new buildings, making it possible for those successively less well off to move up a step all along the line."

Thus, the wealthy few on top who already live in extravagant luxury will get even swankier mansions and apartments. But for the millions who need decent shelter now there is offered only the hope that eventually they will be able to "move up" into the worst and vilest hovels and tenements.

But even this is a vain hope. When the rich abandon their Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue mansions, these remain empty and boarded up. The workers are just jammed tighter into rat-infested, decrepit fire-traps, which decay and fire are destroying at an ever greater rate.

But the big Business government in Washington follows the command of the real estate owners, not the needs of the poor. Even the Veterans' Emergency Housing Program, limited as it was in its aims, has now been buried. Resigning in disgust, deputy housing expediter Norton E Long correctly termed Truman's policy "non-veteran, non-housing."

It is up to the labor movement to initiate widespread demands and actions to secure adequate housing for the workers and veterans and to halt the attempt to boost rents. Rent strikes, anti-eviction activity, and mass demands for an 18 billion dollar federal housing appropriation should be first steps in the direction of decent low-cost, low-rent homes for veterans and workers.

Studio Pickets In Mass Trials

By Al Lynn

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 21 The first of the mass trials of pickets in the Hollywood strike slowly got under way here this week with 208 placed on trial at Patriotic Hall and another 125 at the Embassy Auditorium.

Only four prospective jurors were examined on the first day at Patriotic Hall. The hundreds of pickets were faced with the prospect of no work for a period of several months while the trial drags on.

This demoralizing prospect, however, caused only five individuals to break ranks and plead guilty. The five were fined $25 each for disturbing the peace.

The display of solidarity was all the more marked because of the approach of Christmas and the rapid evaporation of any savings under the steady increase in prices.

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Action Needed To Defend Labor's Living Standards

By M. Stein

Extract from a report on "The Present Political Situation and the Tasks of the Party," delivered to the Twelfth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago, Nov. 15 to 18:

The acute international situation with its ever present threat of war is coupled with a shaky economic equilibrium at home. The country's economic life is dislocated beyond repair by the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of the big monopolists. While the corporations are piling up fantastic profits, arrogating to themselves an even larger share of the annual income, the purchasing power of the masses is further slashed by the inflationary prices.

The workers' share of the national income continues steadily to decline. The national debt of 260 billion dollars—almost equal to the country's estimated national wealth—weighs heavily on the working people. This national debt represents by and large fictitious capital, which, as Leon Trotsky pointed out in a similar connection, is a memento of the real wealth that was pumped out of the country for the purposes of destruction.

It represents a morgtage on the wealth yet to be accumulated. The interest alone on this mortgage amounts to more than five billion dollars a year. The size of this sum can be grasped if we recall that the entire national budget in 1929 was 3½ billion dollars, while in 1933 it was 4½ billion dollars.

This huge national debt, plus the billions being spent in preparation for World War III, will henceforward claim a constantly increasing share of the national income. It will come out of the workers' pay envelope in the form of bigger taxes, rising prices and cuts in real wages. It means a further decline in the workers' standard of living.

One Choice For Workers

The workers have no choice except to fight in defense of their already meager living standards. This was the meaning of the great strike wave that followed V-J Day.

But the gains of the strikes were quickly consumed by soaring prices. The strike settlements therefore were only a partial check on the decline in the workers' living standards, and that only for a short time. The inflationary spiralling of prices quickly nullifies the wage increases gained in strike struggles. What can the workers do under these circumstances?

Our party, I believe, was the only one to advance a realistic program, the heart of which is the struggle for the sliding scale of wages. We propose that every union contract include an escalator clause which provides for automatic wage increases with every rise in the cost of living, in accordance with a price index established by the unions themselves.

The sliding scale of wages would thus safeguard the workers' living standards from being undermined by price jumps. The workers would be freed from the harassing necessity of constantly defending their living standards from this line of assault and could begin a struggle to improve their living conditions over previous levels.

The sliding scale of wages would secure the positions already won in years of struggle and make possible an offensive for higher standards of living. Conversely, this slogan points the only way of effectively counteracting the employers' propaganda that wage increases are responsible for high prices and of preventing the fruits of workers' victories from being stolen from them by the corporations. And most important of all, it would end a drain on the workers' fighting morale, the drain that comes from too many battles of purely defensive character.

We made considerable headway with this slogan. It has made its way in a number of important unions. It provided our militants with an effective weapon against the trade union bureaucracy and the Stalinists. It will continue to play an important role in the days ahead.

Consumers' Organization

In the struggle against sky-rocketing prices we likewise advocated organization against the profiteers on the consumers front. We proposed the organization of consumers' committees, which jointly with the unions would wage a struggle against artificially created scarcities and profiteering.

We did not score any spectacular successes with this proposal as yet. But the Toledo experience, in the fight against the meat gouge, showed what can be done on this front.

It is certain now that rents will be boosted, either by the OPA's granting increases, or through the elimination of rent controls altogether. This will give rise to serious struggles, fights against evictions, and so on.

Rent is the major item in the workers' budget. Higher rents mean a further slash in the workers' living standards. We can expect large-scale resistance to rent increases and we ought to proceed immediately to give this resistance an organized expression.

In some places it may be possible to organize the tenants with the sanction and aid of the trade unions. In such cases it is not excluded that city-wide rent strikes may ensue.

The trade unions have an excellent opportunity to give leadership to the whole community in the struggle against exorbitant rents.

Action Is Slogan

Our comrades should be the champions of such actions wherever they are in a position to do so. But even where our trade union influence is limited, it does not mean that we cannot take effective action.

Even small scale actions on an issue on which the masses are aroused will attract wide attention. Our experience in Toledo is instructive here. The Toledo Emergency Housewives' Committee that went to the Mayor and the City Council to fight against the meat famine and meat gouge was not a large body. But it certainly won a lot of attention because the issue itself was very explosive.

Actions initiated even on a small scale can often give impetus to broader struggles. If any single watchword can be said to apply in the next period, it is the slogan: Action, action and more action! We must be on our toes for every opportunity that leads to action.

Not Much Peace Or Good Will Displayed By World Capitalism

Rather than peace and good will, the outstanding characteristics of the world scene in the week leading up to the Christmas holidays were political conflict and instability, widespread ferment among the masses and large-scale fighting in a number of countries. Far more people were occupied with hunger, grief and bitter resentment than with rejoicing and celebration.

France and Indo-China

Leon Blum's "stopgap" cabinet, all-Socialist because the two biggest French parties (CP and MRP) were unable to arrive at a compromise preceding the election of a president next month, was grappling with an extremely thorny problem — the war in Indo-China.

Having broken its promise to the Viet Minh government that it would hold a referendum on the future status of Cochin-China, the French government has now launched a bloody campaign to wipe out resistance to undisguised imperialist domination of all of Indo-China.

But the French butchers are finding that this is easier to try than to accomplish. The Indo-Chinese masses are resisting heroically and this time, after the experience over Cochin-China, they will be less inclined to permit their leaders to accept a "compromise" that only gives imperialism a breathing spell for a new attack.

The Warfare Inside Greece

The United Nations Security Council voted last week to send a commission to the Balkans to investigate the fighting on the borders of Greece.

Greek Premier Tsaldaris' plea to the UN action on this question was an admission that neither the brutal Greek dictatorship nor the British troops which uphold it, could successfully cope with the new partisan movement that has arisen in Greece.

Despite the possibility that Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania are exploiting and even aiding this partisan group, the fact is that it is a native Greek movement and that no UN censure or other action against Greece's neighbors will end the conflict inside Greece itself.

General Strikes in Italy

In Italy a general strike against the high prices and food shortages tied up the city of Naples for 2½ days. Anti-labor newspapers were shut down and the strikers took over the radio station. The strike continued until Premier de Gasperi rushed emergency grain to Naples, andpromised over the radio to meet the strikers' demands, including more money for unemployment relief and public works.

Unrest over the high cost of living is evident all over Italy. A general strike was threatened in Bari and Reggio Calabria, rioting over food took place in Rome and Salerno, and strikes were spreading elsewhere.

Japanese Cabinet Crisis

The reactionary Japanese cabinet headed by Yoshida last week managed to defeat the Socialist Party motion for the immediate dissolution of the Diet and the election of a new one. But it was by the smallest margin the government ever got on any issue — 236 to 160.

The vote took place at the same time as a mass demonstration for a new Diet by 500,000 trade unionists before the Diet and the Imperial Palace.

The Japanese masses have definitely moved left since last spring's election. The newspaper **Mainichi** has just completed a poll in which 52.2 per cent of the people held that the Yoshida government has been a failure. The next elections will surely reflect this shift to the left. Meanwhile, as the **N. Y. Times** reporter acknowledged on Dec. 18, MacArthur's headquarters "now is relying on an increasingly unpopular group."

Decline of the British Empire

Winston Churchill, wailed last week about the decline and fall of the British Empire. He sought to make political capital of it by blaming the Labor Party for not putting up a better fight to retain the British colonies. Actually, the decline of the empire began before the Labor Party came into office, and the Labor Party leadership is fighting as well as it can to deny independence to Britain's colonial slaves.

The difference is that today the colonial masses are on the move, and attempts to put them down in Churchill's way would only hasten the explosions and the defeat of British imperialism. The Labor Party government follows a policy fully as imperialist as Churchill's, as Palestine shows, but it does not have the strength to do as it wishes everywhere.

That is why — until it is in a stronger position — the British government is ready to make a compromise with the native capitalists which will protect its basic economic and military interests. That is the meaning of its offer to India, Egypt and now Burma. But as Attlee indicated in defending the offer to Burma, perhaps it is too late to salvage even this much.

World capitalism has survived for another year. But there will be a bitter taste in any toast made to celebrate that survival. For with the coming of the new year the future of capitalism on a world scale still remains unattractive, insecure and unstable.

Trotskyists In Greece Hold 3rd Debate With CP

(Special to The Militant)

ATHENS, Greece, Dec. 2—The third public discussion between the Greek Communist Party (Stalinist) and the Trotskyists took place here Nov. 26 on the subject, "The War and the Tasks of the Communists."

The first speaker, a Trotskyist, analyzed the revolutionary attitude toward the different wars since Marx, stressing particularly the imperialist character of the First and Second World Wars.

He refuted all the Stalinist arguments that the last war was a struggle of "democracy against fascism," and attacked the attitude of the Greek Stalinists in the Italo-Greek war of 1940-41, in which they supported Metaxas and the Greek capitalists in the name of "the defense of the independence and integrity of the country."

In concluding, he insisted on the danger of a Third World War by the imperialists against the Soviet Union if victorious socialist revolutions did not intervene.

DISTORTS MARXISM

The Stalinist speaker tried to justify the "democratic-progressive" character of the last war on the part of the imperialist allies of the USSR. He declared that the last war was led by fascism in the aim of oppressing the "free" countries of Europe and not for the conquest of colonies, and completely distorted the position of Marx on the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71.

Attendance was less numerous than in the two previous discussions, amounting to only 641. When opinion was expressed by the audience, 411 voted for the Stalinists, the Trotskyists received 204, and 26 took neither side.

The minutes of the three discussions will be published in pamphlets jointly issued by both organizations.

A Year Of Colonial Struggle

These Indo-Chinese fighters for independence were photographed on their way to prison under French guard. But the imperialists have not crushed the masses, who are still battling their oppressors as 1946 draws to a close.

Puerto Ricans Protest U. S. Gag On Spanish

SAN JUAN, Dec. 15—During the past few weeks hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have been strongly protesting against President Truman's veto of a bill twice approved by the Island Legislature, establishing Spanish instead of English as the official language in Puerto Rico's schools.

Thus far the American imperialist news agencies and newspapers have ignored these facts. According to the San Juan newspaper, **El Mundo** of Nov. 9, nearly 200,000 university and public school students struck, condemning Truman's veto and demanding immediate solution of the political status of Puerto Rico.

The students of the University of Puerto Rico, in Rio Piedras, near San Juan, carried placards condemning American imperialism in the following terms:

"We demand immediate withdrawal of American troops from Puerto Rico."

"We demand Spanish be taught at our public schools instead of the English language."

"To err is Truman."

"Hands off Puerto Rico."

"Less talk about liberty in other countries and give independence to your colony of Puerto Rico."

"Thousands of Puerto Ricans die every year of malnutrition because American sugar barons rob our country."

"American democrats, help us fight Yankee imperialism."

Besides the students, the powerful **Asociacion de Maestros de Puerto Rico** (Teachers Association) is now fighting to have the presidential veto on the Spanish language nullified.

Moreover, the Island's teachers struck on the last days of November demanding higher wages because of the sky-rocketing of prices following the elimination of the OPA in the U. S.

Thousands of starving teachers demanded immediate legislation which compelled the puppet government of Pinero to promise the call of a special Legislature session to face the grave economic situation of the Island.

Most recently the **Congreso Pro - Independencia** (with a membership of about 50,000) supported the students' and teachers' demands to have Spanish as the official language in the public school system.

The economic conditions of the Island have deteriorated for the past months since the elimination of the OPA, because Puerto Ricans must import everything from the United States market.

We ask our friends in the United States to support our fight for a prompt solution of our political status.

We appeal to the Latin American Nations represented before the United Nations Organization to come to our assistance.

We appeal to the American working class to take action in the United States in behalf of Puerto Rican independence.

Long live free Puerto Rico!

Down with American imperialism in our beloved country!

Down with the enemies of liberation of the oppressed nationality of Puerto Rico.

We demand immediate evacuation of American troops from our territory!

American workers, liberals, democrats, join our fight for complete freedom from the imperialist yoke!

Pedro Gonzalez Lopez
Julio Martinez Nunez
Jose Sanchez Berrios

Report On Trotskyists In Bolivia

The October issue of **Contra la Corriente**, official organ of the Revolutionary Workers League, Uruguayan section of the Fourth International, carries the following report of the Trotskyist movement in Bolivia:

One of the most important events in South America was the Bolivian revolt (of last July), in which the armed masses defeated their oppressors. Once again betrayed by the agents of the capitalists in their own ranks, represented by the PIR (so-called Left Revolutionary Party), the Bolivian masses have so generously spent their blood only to defend the interests of imperialism and a section of the capitalists, which saw its interests pushed to the background under the old regime.

The Bolivian proletariat now faces a quite different stage than the one in which reaction could exploit it as it did for so many years.

FORCE AMONG MINERS

The Revolutionary Workers Party (POR), vanguard of the Bolivian proletariat, has tested its structure over long years of struggle. It has succeeded in constructing an excellent force amongst the miners, who comprise the majority of the proletariat, among the railway workers, textile workers, etc., as well as amongst the students close to the workers' struggles.

Already at the last congress of the miners, the following platform of immediate demands presented by the POR was adopted:

1. Formation of a proletariat united front or anti-capitalist workers' bloc.

2. (a) Sliding scale of wages and working hours.

(b) Collective agreements.

(c) Establishment of a minimum living wage.

(d) Equal pay for equal work.

(e) Freedom of assembly, organization, press and propaganda.

3. Workers' control of estate-administration.

4. Struggle against the Nazi-fascist Falange.

5. Defense of the Workers United Front.

6. Expropriation of the three great mining groups and of the railway.

RATIFY PLATFORM

This platform was ratified later by an agreement between the miners and the students of Oruro. It became the basis of a general agreement between the workers and the students. To the attempts to canalize the revolutionary struggle into safe channels, the workers and the youth united to reinforce this struggle with action for the demands of the working class.

The capitalist paper, **The Times of Cochabamba**, confirms this impression by the following statement:

"Among the many revolutionary parties in Bolivia the POR is in the vanguard by its extremist doctrine and the radical methods it proposes. This party recruits experienced members in the workers' centers, and opposes the traditional parties as well as the PIR."

Some time ago the Minister of Labor, the Stalinist Alcobs, announced in a statement as a member of the PIR and defender of the capitalist interests that he proposes energetic repressive measures against Trotskyist militants. The Revolutionary Workers Party, strongly rooted in the toiling masses, answers all these attacks by calling upon the workers to strengthen its party to lead the agrarian revolution and the struggle against imperialism.

Spanish Strikers Show Readiness To Resist Franco

PARIS, France, Dec. 12 — News of strikes breaking out in Spain shows that the Spanish workers, far from being crushed into hopeless passivity, are ready to carry on a fight every time a chance presents itself. And the recent strikes are not the first this year either.

In March strikes broke out too, especially in the textile industry of Catalonia, where the workers have a long tradition of struggle. In Terrasa and Sabadell the strikes broke out spontaneously over a demand for better food. The women played an especially important part in this fight. There was also a strike among the Barcelona harbor workers.

NEW STRIKES

Since then new strikes have taken place in the Barcelona textile plants again over food. The provincial prefect could no longer remain silent this time.

In a communique on "the agitation which exists among the workers in the textile trade," he ordered the factory directors not to accept demands for higher wages "before the Ministry of Labor has examined the problem." He also threatened action against factory directors who agreed to concessions without permission from higher up.

This communique reflects the fear of the authorities that the strike movements may spread.

Franco has tried to neutralize the growing discontent by organizing "spontaneous" parades in his support. Despite pressure from the authorities — obligatory closing down of all offices, factories, schools, etc. — these bureaucratic masquerades only reveal the isolation of the regime and its lack of a mass base.

ThousandsOfGermansThrown Out Of Homes By U. S. Army

Almost 30,000 persons in Munich, Germany, have been evicted from their homes to make room for families of U. S. occupation forces. The number made homeless is sharply mounting. Up to Nov. 23, Mayor Karl Scharnagl stated, 894 houses with 13,700 rooms had been requisitioned. Since then 217 more houses have been seized and two to three hundred more will be taken during the winter. This brutality is duplicated in other military centers like Frankfort, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Bamberg.

Military government housing officials calculated that each American family averaged three persons and displaced at least eight Germans. In 125 houses shortly to be taken in the Gruenwald suburb, they said it would be necessary to turn out 1,000 Germans.

The maximum number of occupants to a room recommended by the Allied Control Council is 2.4 persons. But today in Munich alone, 25,000 rooms are occupied by up to six persons and 722 rooms by seven and eight persons.

In this city 35 per cent of the buildings were totally destroyed during the war and another 20 per cent partly damaged. The dispossessed have no place to go. German officials report that 91 per cent of the homes were taken from Germans without Nazi records.

One disastrous consequence for the crushed German people is already apparent in the staggering rise of venereal disease. Of the new cases, 14 per cent are among children. Tuberculosis and typhus are mounting to an alarm degree.

BRUTAL CONQUERORS

So ruthless are the American conquerors that evicted Germans are not permitted to take their beds, mattresses and sometimes not even their furniture and cooking utensils. These are "bought" from them with marks epected to become practically worthless. Some Germans have refused to move, preferring to go to prison where at least they would have a bed to sleep on.

Mayor Scharnagl on Dec. 19 appealed in the press to citizens of Munich to refrain from demonstrations against the "wave of requisitions of homes which is getting into full swing and whose extent exceeds our fears." He warned on the radio the following day that this could only result in an increase in the forces of occupation and in reprisals. Meanwhile military police patrols are being increased in areas where houses have been seized.

International Notes

President Truman tried last week to justify the U.S. policy in China which has aroused so much condemnation in this country and abroad. He sought to disclaim responsibility for helping the Kuomintang to maintain its dictatorship but he could not deny that U.S. supplies, services and other support were used by China's government in its civil war against the Yenan regime and other opponents. Truman's report actually confirmed what he tried to deny — the necessity for the American workers to demand the withdrawal of American forces from China and the cessation of all support for Chiang Kai-shek.

* * *

2,000 German prisoners employed in the Anzin mines of northern France staged a three-day strike early this month to protest poor food and the robbery of their Red Cross parcels by the French military administration. The prisoners were confined to their barracks without food until they ended the strike, and one who tried to leave them was shot on the spot. But the French miners in the area showed sympathy for the strike.

* * *

A new fascist movement named the Italian Corporative Party is being organized by the big landowners in south Italy, according to the **Continental Daily Mail** of Dec. 5. Semi-military organizations "for defense of estates" are also being created by landowners. A plant in Rome owned by the influential Bank of Agriculture is preparing publication of a daily fascist paper, **L'Idea Nazionale.**

* * *

Seventeen British enlisted soldiers are awaiting court-martial in Alexandria, charged with "mutiny" because of participation in recent protests against demobilization delay in the Middle East, according to the Dec. Socialist Appeal. Another 40 soldiers are held in arrest, and 200 are confined to barracks.

* * *

One third of the delegates to the French Postal Workers Federation, CGT, supported the "trade union struggle" group in opposition to the Stalinist leaders of the union. This group denounced Stalinist strikebreaking during the recent postal strike, demanding the sliding scale of wages with a guaranteed minimum wage, defended union democracy and independence of the unions from the state.

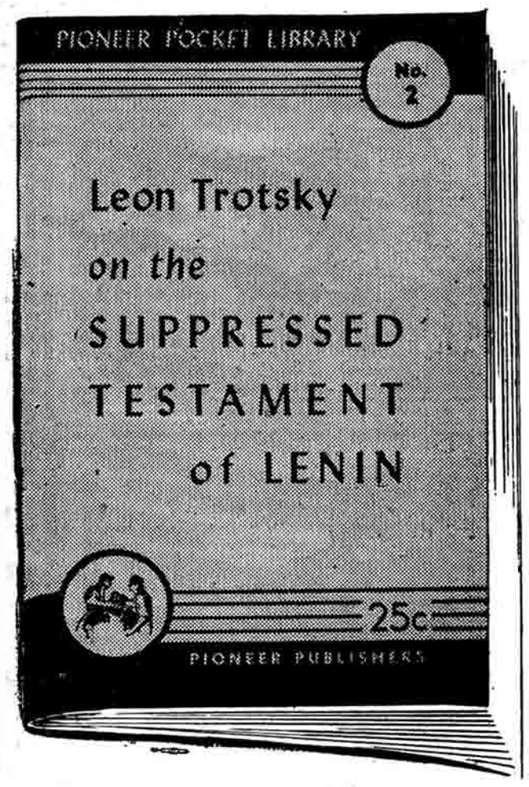
* * *

Almost three million German, Japanese, Italian, Finnish and Hungarian prisoners are being used as slave laborers to build railways and highways in Siberia, according to the Siberian paper, **Irkutsk Pravda.**

* * *

The British government's bill to nationalize all road, rail and inland transport follows the pattern of the earlier coal and steel nationalization bills. Under the title of "fair compensation," the government proposes to saddle the workers with impossible burdens by paying fantastic sums to the industry. Over a billion pounds will be paid to companies in London alone. The private companies have not challenged the proposed figures and methods of compensation.

JUST OUT!



Here is the full text of Lenin's testament in which he gave his "last advice on how to reorganize the party leadership" and proposed to remove Stalin from his post as General Secretary of the party.

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"It is not all permanently established that the United States will be last in the order of revolutionary primacy, condemned to reach its proletarian revolution only after the countries of Europe and Asia. A situation, a combination of forces is possible in which the order is changed and the tempo of development in the United States enormously accelerated."
—Leon Trotsky

Appeasement

Stalinist leaders at the CIO convention last month helped draft a declaration that "we resent and reject the efforts of the Communist Party . . . to interfere in the affairs of the CIO." Every Stalinist delegate was whipped into line to vote for that red-baiting statement.

The **Daily Worker** hailed this Stalinist capitulation to the red-baiters as "a great and statesmanlike move" which provided "the basis for continued unity, freedom of thought and political affiliation."

Events since the CIO convention have quickly proved that the anti-communist declaration is a basis only for a heightened red-baiting campaign. Reactionary elements in one state CIO convention after another—Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Connecticut, New Jersey—have used the CIO's national declaration as a means to push through additional anti-democratic measures.

A climax to this growing red-baiting campaign was provided last week by the leaders of the CIO United Office and Professional Workers, generally known to be Stalinist-dominated. Lewis Merrill, UOPWA President and long a Stalinist follower, issued an Executive Board statement directing members and officers not to "become identified with this or that wing" of the labor movement, including the Communist Party. It threatened that "any effort to impose the viewpoint of outside organizations" on the union "will be met by the firmest exercise of union discipline."

Merrill himself set the example by publicly announcing his resignation as a contributing editor to the Stalinist **New Masses** and a trustee of the Communist Party's Jefferson School of Social Sciences in New York.

Because of Merrill's long association with Stalinism and because his action was such an obvious concession to the red-baiters, the **Daily Worker** was forced to dissociate itself from his move, with an editorial against Merrill called: "Appeasement of Red-Baiting Never Paid."

That is a splendid headline. But it really belongs over an editorial directed at the Communist Party leaders themselves. It was their capitulation to the red-baiters and endorsement of the anti-communist resolution at the CIO convention which helped lay the basis for the intensified red-baiting drive in the CIO. The Merrills are just carrying the Stalinist line to its logical conclusion.

Actually, the Stalinist Party is reactionary through and through. It isn't against red-baiting. It red-baits the Trotskyists and other labor militants all the time. It is ready to block with red-baiters, as it showed at the CIO convention. It whines now only because it has had to swallow some of the bitter fruits it helped to plant at the CIO convention.

Wholly "Military"

In a speech Dec. 20 to his newly appointed committee on Universal Military Training," Truman called for plans to regiment America's youth. But, he added, "I want that word military left out."

Truman said the training would be nothing but a "disciplinary approach of getting along with one another, informing them of their physical makeup, and what it means to take care of this temple which God gave us."

The real purpose of this training, however, is to prepare "this temple" to be blown to ribbons on the battlefields of World War III. This is shown by the fact that the keynote of Truman's speech was militaristic. "It is a total war these days," he declared.

The Committee obediently blue-pencilled the word "military" from their official title. But as Wall Street's mouthpiece, the **N. Y. Times**, cynically observed, "The omission of an adjective does not, of course, change the reality."

At the same time the House Military Affairs Committee, after a secret study of more than a year, called for continuous military espionage in other countries during peacetime. In language as blunt as any Prussian militarist could desire, the committee demanded professionals to conduct the "intricate, involved, hazardous, hidden, ruthless operation" of spying abroad.

The capitalist press applauded this step toward war just as it applauded Truman's call to regiment American youth. **The N. Y. Daily News** hailed the call for "a genuine worldwide spy system for the United States," and said it was "delighted" this "dirty and distasteful but essential business" would be "handled by professionals."

The call for universal military training and universal military espionage follow directly on the heels of a unanimous decision of the United Nations to begin "disarmament." These two proposals alone show what a fraud the UN decision is.

So far as Wall Street sees, the U. S. is headed toward an atomic war that nothing can stop as long as their government remains in power.

Bilbo Hearings

Will Bilbo be ousted from the Senate?

The Mississippi Senator apparently did not think so during the hearings at Jackson over his use of terror against Negroes in the primary elections. In high good humor, Bilbo wise-cracked with fellow-Democrat Allen J. Ellender who headed the "investigation." And Ellender made clear that the Committee intended to whitewash Bilbo.

Likewise at the Washington hearings over his acceptance of bribes from war contractors, Bilbo performed like an actor in a bawdy farce. Then Republican Senator Homer Ferguson drew attention to a federal law prohibiting a war contractor from contributing to campaign funds or a candidate soliciting them.

Bilbo was caught "completely by surprise," said the press. A "violent flush spread across The Man's face" as the implication sank in he might be ousted for violating this law.

Since Bilbo's ties with war contractors were not essentially different from those of other capitalist politicians, the question arises: Why oust Bilbo on such grounds while doing nothing about the big-time war profiteers and their goverment agents?

A possible explanation is that Bilbo went too far last summer in acknowledging his membership in the Ku Klux Klan and openly inciting lynch violence. He is out on a limb which the Republicans want to cut. In the 1948 Presidential election they can then pose as "liberal," having done something about this hated figure in contrast to the Democratic Party which did nothing.

Bilbo's violations of federal laws on war contracts give the Republicans a convenient means of barring him on a technicality without touching the Bourbon electoral system in the South—although this system violates the Constitution. Moreover, by side-stepping Bilbo's Hitler-like racial views the GOP avoids incensing the Southern Bourbons.

Thus if Bilbo is barred, it will not be because of his worst crimes. Most of his fellow Congressmen see eye to eye with him on racial questions.

Bilbo argues that if he is "condemned" for accepting bribes then "every worthwhile Senator and member of the House must likewise bear the burden of the condemnation." This warning undoubtedly carries weight among Congressmen intimately connected with the war profiteers. Barring Bilbo could set a precedent leading to their loss of office too.

However, if Bilbo retains his seat, it will emphasize again what a reactionary, corrupt body Wall Street's Congress really is. In addition, the native fascists will be enormously encouraged by the fact Bilbo could get away with his brazen espousal of the Ku Klux Klan, violation of the law and incitements to violence.

Amnesty For COs

Let it not be said Truman is not touched by the spirit of Christmas. He has decided to do something for the conscientious objectors still in prison. In a sweeping gesture on Dec. 22, Truman let it be known that "pre-Christmas actions are planned" and these plans may hold out hope for the eventual release of some of the conscientious objectors.

This warm thought didn't just well up in Truman's heart. A picket line marched outside the White House on the morning that Truman let the press "officially" learn of his generous intentions. This picket line, dressed in striped "prison suits," presented a petition bearing thousands of signatures demanding Christmas Amnesty for all the 662 conscientious objectors still behind bars. And other demonstrations were scheduled in eight cities.

Likewise it must be admitted there are strings attached to Truman's generosity. Instead of a general amnesty, he plans to set up a three-man board that will go over each individual case with a fine-tooth comb. The board will finally recommend. Then Truman will eventually decide personally whether the amnesty should or should not apply to those who get through the board.

In any case, the press jubilantly announced 150 members of Jehovah's Witnesses expect release for good behavior just before Christmas, having served one-third of their term. It is true that strings are attached to this release too. They remain bound to parole restrictions. But the Department of Justice timed their release to come close to Christmas, didn't it?

As for restoring the civil rights denied the 6,000 to 7,000 conscientious objectors who were imprisoned, Truman said nothing.

Likewise still deprived of their civil rights are 18 Trotskyists who were sentenced to prison and served terms during the war for opposing imperialist war and advocating socialism.

But let it not be said that Truman does not know how to rule in the grand style. If Kings, Emperors and Czars felt Christmas called for amnesty to political opponents, a President cannot be outdone. That is why he let the press officialy learn "pre-Christmas actions are planned."

"Dear, don't you think you're working too hard?"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

MIDDLE EAST AT THE CROSSROADS by T. Cliff, Workers International News Pamphlet, No. 1, 1946, 24 pp., 20 cents.

This important pamphlet, first in a series of popular priced pamphlets published in England, is available from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y. It reprints the much discussed articles which have already appeared in **Fourth International**, containing a comprehensive analysis of the critical events taking place in the Middle East for the past year.

The analysis begins with the fundamental factor — the high stake the imperialists have in the Arab East. Although today the chief power in this area is Britain, U. S. imperialism also has a big stake in its riches and strategical position.

Out of imperialist domination, the author demonstrates, flow all of its terrible consequences; abysmal poverty, misery, high death rate and in Palestine fratricidal warfare between the Arabs and Jews.

For imperialism to dominate these colonial millions, it must become fortified through the native bourgeoisie. The Arab bourgeoisie, mainly the feudal landowning class, despite its desire to wring concessions for itself from the imperialist overlord, must make even greater efforts to oust the Zionist bourgeoisie in order to become the main agent of imperialism. Because secondary and light industry is in the hands of Zionist capital, "the junior partners of imperialist capital are not the Arab bourgeoisie, but the Zionist bourgeoisie," the author explains.

That is why, despite the bloody struggles between Zionism and imperialism, the Zionist leaders are incapable of conducting a genuine anti-imperialist fight. They are dragging the rank and file Zionists into a blind alley. Meanwhile, its "divide and rule" policy maintains British imperialism in power.

The author also analyzes the treacherous and twisting role of Stalinist policy in this region. He concludes with a presentation of the only solution to the problem —the overthrow of imperialism through the building of an internationalist front of class struggle in the Arab East. This is the essential task of the revolutionary movement there.

—Larissa Reed

LOOK HOMEWARD, ANGEL by Thomas Wolfe, Modern Library, 600 pp., $1.

Here Wolfe looks in retrospect on his first 19 years, and paints a vivid picture of American youth's loneliness, isolation, tormenting desires and disappointments. He views youth through himself in the character of Eugene Gant as he was influenced by the conflicting personalities of his parents and by his environment in the southern town of Altamont, Old Catawba.

From his earliest years, Wolfe was sensitively and passionately aware of the immense beauty of nature, of growth and change, of man's struggle and of all colors, sounds, scenes, tastes, smells and feelings. He observed too the ugliness and disorder that stand in contradiction to beauty and harmony.

In this book, however, he was not aware of the economic and social forces that govern man's life. He saw man only as the victim of metaphysical factors, of chance, of an abstract "fury" or "demon-madness."

The author depicts the insecurity of his family, its individual dreams and frustrations. Eugene's father, a poetry-loving, alcoholic Northerner, is a stonecutter who chisels tombstones while dreaming of carving masterpieces. His mother speculates in property and dreams of owning the whole town.

Helen sings at local showhouses and dreams of opera. Luke, the stutterer, sells magazines and dreams of being an executive. Eugene, the youngest, an idealist, is disappointed with shabby living, and dreams of a supreme romantic life.

Eugene makes many attempts to escape his southern environment and to become independent of Eliza's maternal grasp. First he goes to a private school, where Mrs. Leonard recognizes and develops his talent for fashioning words.

Later, Eugene goes to the state university. When war comes, he tries to sign up, but is too young. After graduation, Eugene joins the wanderers. At one period he works in a shipyard, but not long enough to become class-conscious. The book ends as he flees northward to see his father's land and study at Harvard.

The book is chiefly valuable in its portrayal of man's most common emotions, its intensely moving poetical lines, and its detailed character studies. Wolfe did not see far enough into social forces, but he did perceive that much is wrong in society and showed promise of a closer approach to the masses.

—Robert Bates

Our Program:

1. **Defend labor's standard of living!**
   - A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
   - Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!
   - Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!
2. **Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!**
   - For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!
   - Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!
   - Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. **Against all anti-labor laws and government strikebreaking!**
   - No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
   - No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. **Build an independent labor party!**
5. **Tax the rich, not the poor!**
   - Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!
   - No taxes on incomes under $5,000 a year!
6. **An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
7. **Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**
   - End Jim-Crow! End Anti-Semitism!
8. **For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
9. **A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.**
   - Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!
   - Against capitalist conscription!
   - Abolish the officer caste system!
   - Full democratic rights in the armed forces!
   - Trade union wages for the armed forces!
   - Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. **Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!**
    - For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
    - Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. **For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**

Deportation Threatens 219 Indonesian Seamen

The Supreme Court on Dec. 16 refused to study the case of 219 Indonesian seamen who have been hounded for over a year by the U. S. government and are at present incarcerated in a Crystal City, Texas detention camp. They are now threatened with immediate deportation to Java which, as they state, means "certain persecution if not death" at the hands of the Dutch imperialist oppressors.

The seaman walked off Dutch ships docked in New York harbor in October 1945, refusing to transport American-made arms and ammunition intended to shoot down their countrymen engaged in a heroic struggle for independence. From their imprisonment on Ellis Island in November 1945, where they remained for six months, these seamen were shifted from one prison to another across the country in efforts to deport them.

On June 7, together with a score of Indonesian residents rounded up by the Immigration Department, the seamen were shipped to San Francisco. Their deportation temporarily blocked by the nationwide protest from labor and progressive forces, they were shipped to Crystal City, Texas. The protest forced the eventual release of the Indonesian residents, many of whom have been here for as long as 16 and 20 years.

According to an AP dispatch from Washington, the Justice Department has given the go-ahead signal for deportation by claiming to the Supreme Court that the seamen had "received explicit assurance in writing from the Netherlands consul in San Francisco" that upon their repatriation "they would be free to go wherever they wish."

But these official promises were made previously and are not worth the paper they are written on, as **The Militant** of June 29 revealed. Last May the Netherlands Consulate General promised that the seamen would not be treated as deserters. But a subsequent letter to the Indonesia League by Attorney General Tom Clark indicated the opposite.

Yet the U. S. government pretends that these assurances are genuine, thus playing the role of accomplice in punishing the seamen. Today Dutch concentration camps in Borneo and New Guinea are filled with tens of thousands of Indonesian fighters for freedom.

The American labor movement should rally to the defense of these victims of Dutch-American persecution, and demand the halting of any deportation move until they can be guaranteed safe conduct to a fully recognized Indonesian Republic.

Potatoes To Be Dumped While People Starve

By Barbara Bruce

With the retail price of potatoes almost twice what it was five years ago, 20 million bushels of the nation's bumper 1946 potato crop, designated as "surplus," are slated for probable dumping next spring, according to the **St. Paul Pioneer Press.**

A few months ago housewives could buy only a few pounds of potatoes at a time—if they were available—because of the "potato shortage." Now a record-breaking crop of 425 million bushels—100 million more than the government's goal—makes it necessary to throw out this precious food crop.

Thousands of poor and hungry people will be deprived of these potatoes as a "surplus commodity" because the federal government has discarded its food stamp plan, under which surplus farm crops were formerly moved into relief distribution. Congress has not seen fit to revive even this inadequate method of feeding the poor.

Federal price supports which are keeping the retail price of potatoes well above the reach of the poor, are required by law for two years after the war to protect farmers who went all-out for food production under the government's war program. Next year the government will go back to its prewar plan of trying to head off production of huge surpluses by making its federal loans and price supports available only to farmers who hold their production down to government quotas.

Already the shadow of the next depression is falling over the richest country in the world. While workers and their families go hungry, farmers will receive government aid only if they agree to raise a limited amount of food! Hundreds of thousands of workers' families are already starving all over a war-torn world. UNRRA and foreign countries refuse to pay the high potato prices demanded by the U. S. government. American capitalism chooses to sacrifice human lives instead of profits.

How different it would be if the farmers of America were able to raise crops for consumption and not for profit! Until they do, the people of this world will be forced to live over and over again the tragedy of want in the midst of plenty.

Coal Bin Is 'Home' To Family Of Ten

Mrs. Faustina Gamez, wife of a Mexican worker in Fort Wayne, Indiana, gave birth last week to her eighth child — in a coal bin. That was where the Gamez family was forced to live. Welfare officials, who discovered the shocking conditions under which this family of 10 were living, took the mother to a hospital.

The coal bin measured 9 by 12 feet. For this, Gamez, a packer in a canning factory, paid $40 a month rent. With only two beds in the room, the family spread out at night on blankets on the floor. Nine toothbrushes hung in an orderly row over the make-shift wash-stand by the orange-crate cupboard. A single window, of the type that is used to admit a coal chute, cast a dim light into the cellar.

Gamez, who moved to Indiana from Texas last year, said it was better than nothing at all. He had moved north because he thought his children would have a "better chance." "Educated," he said in native Spanish, "I want my children educated."

Meanwhile the 13-year-old Maria scrubs and cleans the coal bin, keeping it spick and span. Welfare officials said they would move the rest of the family to the township shelter house while they help them find other quarters.

John F. Williams, area rent director, when informed of the $40 rent remarked: "It's incomprehensible." He said he would order immediate registration of the unit to open the way for an investigation. Williams was shocked by the high rent paid for the coal bin; but not by the fact of a family being forced to live in a coal bin.

The Gamez case symbolizes the plight of millions who are suffering from the housing shortage while capitalist greed blocks a low cost, low-rent government housing program.

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant" Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Veteran Learns Cause Of War and Fascism

Editor:

I came out of the Army with 39 months' service, 18 of it in Italy and France, and with no clear understanding of the cause or meaning of the war. Since my discharge I have been working in the same mill with some members of the Socialist Workers Party and have read much Marxist literature and I believe I know the cause of war and poverty—it is not the people but the social system of capitalism.

The race against fascism in America is on in full swing and the SWP is the only organization that really fights fascism. More power to you and to us.

M. L.
Youngstown, O.

A Correction

Editor:

There was an error in printing the verse I submited, to the Workers Forum on the miners. It should have read:

You can lead a horse to water
But you can't make him drink.
You can levy fines on miners
But you can't make them fink.

E. K.
Detroit, Mich.

Stalinists Fail To Halt 'Militant' Distribution

Editor:

Last Sunday, a group of our comrades and a sympathizer were distributing at a meeting sponsored by the NAACP for Isaac Woodard, the Negro veteran who had his eyes gouged out by a southern policeman.

We had distributed and sold hundreds of **Militants** and pamphlets and while talking to many people, I found many were **Daily Worker readers.** They asked about the difference between the CP paper and **The Militant.** I pointed out that our position on the Negro struggle was always the same, while during the war the CP policy on the Negro question was nothing more than a sell-out, etc. Each person seemed eager to take our literature and as one man put it: **"You'll be hearing from me soon."**

We had completely sold out our stock of literature. By this time most of the large crowd entering the hall were holding one or more of our publications. This must have been too much for the Stalinists, who were running the meeting, because suddenly a policeman appeared with a red car following him. He viciously ordered us away. Someone standing near the curb heard these policemen discussing how to engineer some means of "picking me up."

The Stalinists knew they couldn't very well use goon squad methods in front of a church, especially on a Sunday, so they used another method, calling the cops.

It was very gratifying when several hours later, after the meeting was over, I boarded a subway train and saw almost every person on the train holding a **Militant.**

Therese Stone
Philadelphia, Pa.

Klan Active In Western States

Editor:

I have been reading **The Militant** for about a year now, and I certainly don't want to miss any future issues. I am enclosing check for a renewal of my subscription for two years.

I especially sympathize with your stand on imperialism and race relations. The Klan seems quite active here in the West at present, and it is obvious that we have a long, hard fight on our hands.

B.R.B.
Wickenburg, Ariz.

Can't Scare Him Away From 'Militant'

Editor:

One of the Socialist Workers Party members here has been working in a shop with an old-time member of the Communist Party, who has been in the CP since 1927. Our comrade showed him a copy of **The Militant.**

The man took it home, and the next day said he had stayed up very late, read the whole paper, and discussed it with his wife. He said he would like to get it all the time. When our comrade reminded him that reading **The Militant** might get him expelled from the CP, he said that he was well aware of that and wanted the paper anyway.

J. C.
Chicago, Ill.

For Labor's Own Political Party

Editor:

I have worked for years for socialism, and am old and worn out now. But I am still glad to hear about plans for a labor party, or whatever the majority wants to call it.

We should get together and make it strong so the capitalists can't throw us off the ballot; they have shown before that they will violate the Constitution. In my opinion the capitalists intend to turn on us next, if they can get Europe beaten to its knees.

If we don't act, freedom is done for in this country.

L. B. Courts
Hamilton, O.

Woman Shopper Supports Miners

Editor:

During the coal strike a friend of mine went to a store to buy a dress. A man entered and the owner of the store greeted him cheerfully, saying to another woman, "This man is responsible for getting us such nice dresses."

"Now don't blame me for the delay on dresses," the newcomer interrupted. "Blame it on John L. Lewis."

My friend had just chosen a dress. But when she heard this remark she said to the saleswoman,

"Take this dress over to him and tell him to blame Lewis for not selling this dress, too."

She walked out empty-handed, in protest.

Some solidarity!

A. Arbeiter
S. Louis, Mo.

Speed-Up On The Assembly Line

Editor:

Johnny and I went to work at the General Motors plant in Oakland a couple of weeks ago. We found that most of the men were new to line work, many were veterans, and the jobs were too fast.

The first few days Johnny worked at assembling parts. My first day was spent attaching bumpers. The cars sped down the line about 40 an hour, eight hours a day. Sore and aching muscles kept us awake that first night.

The following day I helped an inexperienced man on his operation. The day after I was drilling 18 holes in a hood part, and after eight hours my hands were stiff.

Now I work on a bench job, handling about 10 tons of metal a day. The work, attaching a bracket on the motor assembly, is very rough. Johnny helped me for two days. He was given more work. And now he has another job, besides.

"It's just amazing how the foreman figured out a way to keep me busy every second of the time," Johnny said, "by just giving me another bolt to do on my operation."

We've talked to some of the new men about the working conditions here. Their anger gives us the will to remain on the job, to fight the speed-up on the line. Among the first things we are going to demand is a rest period of five minutes every hour.

GM Worker
Oakland, Calif.

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The Militant
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Socialist Workers Party Branches Report Activities In $20,000 Emergency Drive

By William F. Warde
National Fund Campaign Director

$1,213.50 has been sent in to date on the $20,000 Emergency Fund campaign to help support the work of the Socialist Workers Party. This is six per cent of the total.

Contributions amounting to $377.50 were received during the past week. This rate of receipts will have to be stepped up from now on if the designated goal is to be reached within a three-month period.

It certainly will be if all the preparatory planning and hard work of the SWP branches bears the expected fruit. Following **Akron's** example reported in last week's **Militant,** the **Youngstown** branch held its own successful and inspiring banquet on Dec. 15. to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the SWP and to launch its local fund-raising action.

Olga Cope writes: "At this banquet the Party Fund was launched in grand style. Over $80 in cash and $370 in pledges were donated out of our quota of $500.

"Joseph Andrews of Akron, one of the Ohio leaders of the SWP, was guest speaker of the evening. The audience of workers and their friends, many of them newly introduced to the ideas of Trotskyism, was visibly impressed by the theme of his speech. He showed how much World War II cost and what might have been done with these billions if they were used for constructive purposes. His presentation brought gasps of astonishment from the audience.

"Additional brief talks were given by visiting trade unionists and out-of-town guests. After an excellent chicken dinner, everyone drank a toast to the victory of labor's struggles for a better world."

Milwaukee encloses $47 as the first payment on its $200 quota. Carol Andrews, local Fund Director, comments: "At a meeting Milwaukee held Dec. 8 a summary was given by our organizer of our inspiring Convention and the party perspectives for the future. On this occasion contributions for the $20,000 Emergency Fund were volunteered by the individual comrades and a sympathizer in attendance. A total of $232.50 was pledged.

"A number of comrades who weren't there have yet to make pledges. So you can see the response was very enthusiastic. Two comrades have already paid in full. I will try to send in the money as fast as it comes in. That will probably be every week so that it can make **The Militant.**"

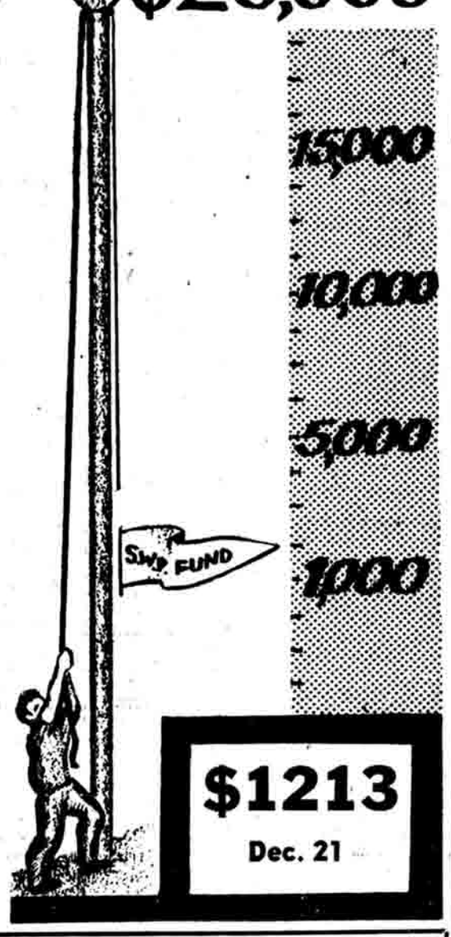
Buffalo stays out in front this second week by sending in another $24. This banner branch has already raised one-third of its $700 quota.

Chicago, through Belle Rosen, presents an extremely encouraging report of its local financial prospects. She writes: "On the fund you can report that at the Local conference Chicago held last week the campaign for our share of the $20,000 Emergency Fund was launched together with a local drive to finance our election activities this spring.

"The 1,500 was oversubscribed that day. We received $1,680 in pledges which gave us an additional $180 toward the $1,000 election fund. We have already received $140 which will be forwarded at the end of the week."

In response to an editorial appeal, **Militant** reader S. Harrison of Spring Valley, New York, sends in his contribution. "I am enclosing herewith $2 towards the SWP campaign for the $20,000 Fund. Here's wishing it meets with the finest success!"

The publication of the six-page **Militant** and many other important activities of the Socialist Workers Party hinge in no small measure upon the prompt and successful raising of this $20,000 Emergency Fund. A workers' movement such as ours, hard-hit by the skyrocketing prices nowadays, can turn for aid only to its working class supporters who are determined to keep on fighting with us for Socialism and are prepared to make financial sacrifices for that great goal. Every dollar counts. How many more readers will follow the good example set by S. Harrison?



SCOREBOARD

Branch	Quota	Paid	Per cent
Buffalo	$ 700	$239.00	34
Minneapolis	700	200.00	29
Milwaukee	200	47.00	23
New York Local	6,000	679.50	11
Flint	200	21.00	10
Seattle	800	25.00	3
Akron	400	0	0
Akron Youth	10.00	0	0
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	0	0
Baltimore	20	0	0
Bayonne	50	0	0
Boston	400	0	0
Chicago Local	1,500	0	0
Chicago Youth	25	0	0
Cleveland	300	0	0
Connecticut State	120	0	0
Detroit	1,000	0	0
Houston	25	0	0
Los Angeles Local	1,500	0	0
Los Angeles Youth	25	0	0
Newark	300	0	0
New York Youth	50	0	0
Oakland	250	0	0
Philadelphia	500	0	0
Philadelphia Youth	25	0	0
Pittsburgh	150	0	0
Portland	150	0	0
Reading	150	0	0
Rochester	75	0	0
St. Louis	50	0	0
St. Paul	300	0	0
San Diego	100	0	0
San Francisco	1,250	0	0
Tacoma	100	0	0
Toledo	300	0	0
Youngstown	500	0	0
General	1,200	2.00	.2
Total	$20,000	$1,213.50	6%

THE MILITANT ARMY

Brooklyn SWP Chalks Up Success In Sub-Getting

Brooklyn Branch of the Socialist Workers Party is making sure that subscribers in its area continue as regular readers of **The Militant. Edith Kane,** Literature Agent, reports: "During the last two weeks Brooklyn has begun visiting subscribers in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area for renewals. In spite of the bad weather and many other activities, the comrades got 23 subs . . . We are just starting on this work in earnest and expect to roll up some real figures for the other branches to shoot at."

* * *

Connecticut State's campaign is gaining momentum, as previously predicted by **James White.** "I'm sending 34 new subs," he writes. "We have just finished the second week of our drive. We have a total of 50 subs to date. Our goal is 300 in three months.

"The race for local Pace-Setter should bear watching. It pits **Clara Raymond,** National Pace-Setter No. 2 in the last National Campaign, against **Pearl Spangler,** nationally No. 5 in the same campaign. Comrade Raymond is leading with 21 subs, while Comrade Spangler is close behind with 16."

* * *

"The **Flint Branch** of the Socialist Workers Party had a distribution in the area of its hall," reports **El Snyder.** "We distributed 800 copies of **The Militant** and had a most encouraging response. Our hall is located in an ideal and progressive place in Flint. We find many people in the area politically conscious. They are more than eager to learn about our organization and to take an active part in the work of the branch."

Comrade Snyder sent in 12 subs with the above report.

* * *

E. Brent sent in nine subs for Detroit, commenting: "This is one lovely batch of subscriptions to be able to send in. It is easier to get renewals by calling on subscribers immediately when we receive notice that their subs have expired—before they miss any issues of **The Militant.** It also impresses the subscribers that we are on our toes if we visit them soon after they receive notice from **The Militant** office that their sub has expired."

* * *

Dan Roberts mailed in seven new subs obtained by the Seattle comrades.

Fred Martin forwarded six subs for **Milwaukee.**

A. Arbeiter of St. Louis sent in five subs.

* * *

Dave Swenson sent in seven subs for **Akron,** plus an order for extra copies. "Our Youth Group would like more copies of **Militant** No. 40 and No. 41. Can you spare 200 or 300? These are the issues dealing with the Akron student strike."

* * *

Leon Forth sent the following report on **Chicago's** literature plans: "Will you send us 200 extra copies of the next **Militant?** These are to be used in line with some of our neighborhood work. The Literature Committee has been reorganized and now has some good new blood on it. Plans are many and we are determined to carry them out."

At the request of **J. Lang, Pittsburgh,** we are now sending five copies of **The Militant** every week to Castelli's Ice Cream Bar in Lawrence, Pa. Comrade Lang says: "It's an ice cream and newsstand place in the heart of the mining town."

* * *

Harry Thompson, Los Angeles Local literature reporter, writes: "For the past two weeks the CIO Council meetings have been covered with **Militants. Comrades Rose** and **Harold K.** sold 17 **Militants** Friday, Dec. 6; 14 **Militants** and one six-month sub Friday, Dec. 13. They are doing good work. **Comrade May M.** sold two six-month **Militant** subs on a door-to-door sale at the **Wm.** Mead Housing Project."

* * *

Dorothy Lessing sent in six subscriptions obtained by the **Newark** comrades.

* * *

Al Turner of **San Diego** tells us that he sold a sub in **Austin,** Texas, while on vacation there.

Pauline Lodge, Westside Literature Agent in **Los Angeles,** explains that she obtained three **Militant** subs — two from old friends and the other from a member of her family.

* * *

Five subscriptions from **Calumet Branch** in **Hammond, Ind.,** are commented on by **Lorene Simkins:** "Two of the subs were gotten by **Comrade Stanley S.** in the refinery where he works. The others were obtained by **Comrade Tom S.** and **Comrade Simms.**"

* * *

Now that election and strike activities of **Oakland Branch** have subsided, the comrades there, according to a letter from **Beverley Wise,** are beginning "a renewal drive and hope to clean up all expired subs before starting on a drive for new subs." Five renewals were sent in as a beginner.

PIONEER NOTES

Pioneer Publishers has received large stocks of two important pamphlets just published by RCP Publications, London, England.

One is a re-issue of Leon Trotsky's famous Copenhagen radio address of December, 1932. It was first published by Pioneer in February, 1933, under the title **In Defense of the Russian Revolution.** It now bears the title **The Russian Revolution** (which incidentally is the same as the title of a Pioneer pamphlet by James P. Cannon). The price here is 15 cents.

The other is **The Middle East At the Crossroads** (20c) by T. Cliff, a Palestinian Trotskyist. It was published in three parts in **Fourth International** (magazine), December, 1945, to February, 1946, and is now available for the first time as a unit in pamphlet form.

These are Numbers 2 and 1, respectively, of a new series of Workers International News pamphlets being published for the Revolutionary Communist Party of England.

* * *

"At most of the meetings we are covering now," writes E. Brent, Detroit literature agent of the Socialist Workers Party, "people ask for additional pamphlets, saying they already have what we are selling.

"At a meeting to protest the blinding of Isaac Woodard, two comrades sold 50 copies of **A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow.** At another meeting for Clayton Powell, they sold one copy of **The Struggle for Negro Equality** and 10 of **A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow** (10c each.)

"Also several **Militant** subscribers have asked when **Charles Jackson** (author of **A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow**) will resume writing his column. They like it very much.

"In our subscription call-back work, most of the people visited have bought some literature. We could use more new items like George Clarke's **Build a Labor Party Now** and Charles Carsten's **Veterans & Labor"** (each 10c).

* * *

Order these pamphlets from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Youth Activities

AKRON. — Socialist **Youth** Club meets Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing. 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO. — Youth meeting Fridays at 8 p.m. Discussion on pamphlet **Socialism On Trial.** Games and refreshments. 777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Educationals after every meeting. Refreshments served.

NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N Y.

Open Forum: **Every Friday,** 8 p.m., at 116 University Place. Dancing, refreshments.

Sundays, 3 p.m.:—"What Is Socialism?" 116 University Pl.

PHILADELPHIA.—For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers At these Local Activities of
The Socialist Workers Party

AKRON — Visit The SWP, 2nd floor, 8 So. Howard St., Akron 8, O. Open daily except Sunday 2 to 4 p.m.
Saturdays: Current Events Discussion, 8 p.m. followed by social. Admission free.
Sundays, 7 p.m. Public Speaking class.

BALTIMORE—For information write Box 415, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums.

BAYONNE—SWP headquarters, 62 W 23rd St. Open house 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

BOSTON—Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone MAdison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday.
Open house and current events discussion every Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Admission free.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP 777 W Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.
Sat. night, open house.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Park Ave.).

DETROIT—SWP, 6108 Linwood Ave. phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

FLINT—Visit SWP and Militant headquarters, 215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

LOS ANGELES—Visit Militant Publishing Assn., 316½ W Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.
Friday, 8 p.m. — Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon.

SAN PEDRO, Militant Publishing Assn., 1008 S. Pacific Room 214.

MINNEAPOLIS— Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open Mon., 7:30-9:15 p.m.
Fridays, 8:15 p.m.; 1st and 3rd each month, open forum 2nd and 4th, round table discussion.

NEWARK—Visit SWP headquarters, 423 Springfield Ave. Phone BIgelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.
Friday night forum, 8:30.

NEW YORK—CITY HQ., 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149
HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Rm. 23. MO. 2-1866.
Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.
BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.
Reading room open Mon. to Fri., 7 to 10 p.m.
Current events discussion, Fridays at 8.
BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.
CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

OAKLAND, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5828.

PITTSBURGH—SWP headquarters 1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor Round table discussions, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month 3:30. Phone: Court 6060.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Write to Socialist Workers Party, c/o C. M. Hesser, P.O. Box 3711, Portland 8, Oregon.

SAN DIEGO—Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 3-9 p.m. daily

SAN FRANCISCO — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

SEATTLE—Visit our Headquarters, 1919½ Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Tel. SE-0543. Library, Bookstore.
Friday forum—8 p.m.

ST. LOUIS—Headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

ST. PAUL—540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2, Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30.

TACOMA, Wash. — Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Oddfellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO—SWP headquarters at 106 Summit St. Toledo 4, O. Open daily. Phone MAin 3019.

YOUNGSTOWN — SWP Headquarters, 35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

Constant Child Care Problems Are Told By A Working Mother

By Mille Fredereci

Watch the hands of working women as they ride home on the subways, buses or trolleys. The love that they have for their children can be seen in their hands. There are the ink-stained hands of office-workers. The tapered hands of seamstresses. The hard thick fingers of factory workers and house workers. Fingers which hang like claws from overwork.

I earned $8 today doing hand sewing. Before I reached home I bought with my day's earnings a pork shoulder which cost $3.65. It was mostly fat. Last week I bought a loin of pork for $2.89 which shrunk to half its original size after cooking. There is no real value in the meat we buy.

I was late coming home from work. Junior's father was sleeping because he works at night while I work during the day. My little 4-year-old boy became restless and tired of playing alone.

Junior told me he lifted the receiver from the telephone and dialed. One of the patient telephone operators who slaves for $28 a week and never utters a cross word to the public, answered: "Op-per-rator."

"Operator, I want my mommy," said Junior.

"Hang up the receiver and go back to sleep," she answered in a sweet voice.

Obviously the telephone operator couldn't find Junior's mother in a city jammed with eight million people. Junior hung up the receiver but didn't go back to sleep. He played with the flashlight until I came home.

When Junior was two years old he climbed out of his crib, unlocked the door by standing on the chair, and walked down five flights of stairs in his shirt tail. He had almost gained the sidewalk when he was sighted by a friendly neighbor.

I made a search for a day nursery to care for Junior. I visited the "Little Brown School House." The interviewer on duty said the application (sheet of paper) would cost $2, psychological examination (mental test) would cost $5, physical examination $5, or a grand total of $12 before I would know if Junior was acceptable. Then I would be required to pay a weekly fee of $8.

The Mt. Morris Park Day Nursery, a tax-supported nursery housed in a church, is not quite as costly. This nursery will accept the child's record with the Child Health Station as adequate mental and physical examination. The cost is $1.40 a day whether he attends or not, or if he is out on holidays the cost is the same, $7.50 a week, $30 a month for a 4-week month, and $360 a year for one child.

This is my problem, the children. This is the story of all working mothers who must leave the children uncared for while they work. This is what they must worry about when low wages of husbands cannot be stretched to cover the high costs of food, clothing, household articles and the bare necessities of life.

PITTSBURGH
Open House
Sunday, Jan. 12
FARRELL DOBBS
will speak on
Program of Trotskyism
1418 Fifth Ave. 3 p.m.

THE MILITANT

PAGE SIX — NEW YORK, N. Y. — SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1946

Diary of A Steel Worker

New Year's Day, 1947

By Theodore Kovalesky

In the north of the world the snow lies deep upon the ground, and the chimneys of the factories jut their black spires into the gray skies of winter. It is cold. It is dreary and cheerless. Life is hard. Yet we rejoice in the New Year.

We were born in the darkness, comrades and brothers, and all our lives we have yearned for the sun.

Our fathers and forefathers too were born in the darkness, and their hopes live in us, their quest, their struggle lives on in us.

There have been other New Years. There have been the foolish days of smugness and dreams, the days of lies and childish hopes. ("In America a guy can get ahead. A guy can work himself up.")

There have been the days of the void, the gray and hollow days that were the fruit of past falsehoods, the days of hunger and despair, the unemployed days packed with the connected boredom of one employment office, one welfare visitor after another, one disappointment, one insult after another.

There have been days of suffering, the black days of war and want, of fear and agony. There have been bad days, and terrible days, and there will be still worse days ahead.

But for all of this, I congratulate you, brothers and comrades. I congratulate you and myself for living in these times.

We shall face suffering, but ours is the shining privilege to suffer like MEN, not like our forefathers whose pain was for the most part the dull, hopeless anguish of the pack animal. Ours is the privilege of fighting back, of ending and avenging our suffering.

The old world as we have known it is wearing out. The machinery of the old society is grinding, quivering, and smoking; it will not last much longer. Our is the privilege of dismembering it . . . and building it anew to serve all mankind.

For us New Year's Day means the dawn of a new day, a day that may see the birth of freedom, truth, and equality. It means that one more year of oppression and exploitation has sunk into the past, and our goal is one year closer to us.

On this New Year's Day, we renew our pledge never to forget our martyrs, who have suffered and died that men might become free; never to forget our enemies, the capitalists and their retainers, who will fight us with tyranny, with lies and hypocritical smiles, with chains and prisons and bullets until we finally defeat them; never to forget our task, the struggle for the liberation of mankind.

All over the United States, all over the world, at the stroke of midnight on the last day of 1946 groups of men and women will rise and sing the stirring words of the workers' anthem, **The Internationale:**

"Arise, ye prisoners of starvation,
Arise ye wretched of the earth,
For justice thunders condemnation
A better world's in birth."

And the heart of each comrade who stands with raised fist will beat with determination

"'Tis the final conflict,
Let each stand in his place.
The International Party
Will lead the human race."

Throughout the tortured, blighted earth, wherever clear eyed fighters for liberty gather, this song of promise will ring out.

Will YOU be there?

The Negro Struggle

Truman Creates A Committee

By William E. Bohannon

President Truman has finally taken notice of the fact that throughout the country people are being mobbed, terrorized and lynched, and that the guilty parties are escaping scot-free. Why are they getting away without punishment? Because of "weak and inadequate" civil rights statutes, according to Truman. And what is the solution to this problem? Truman's answer is to set up a 15-member Committee on Civil Rights to recommend "legislation of more adequate and effective means and procedures for the protection of the civil rights of the people of the U.S.

What Truman is trying to make us believe is that the government is really concerned about lynching, but just doesn't have the power to do anything about it. To see how true this is, let's examine a few recent cases:

After much pressure was exerted, the Department of Justice finally preferred charges against Lynwood Shull, the South Carolina cop who gouged out Isaac Woodard's eyes. The Justice Department assigned a special prosecutor to help present the case against Shull. But neither this prosecutor nor the local district attorney made the least effort to determine whether the members of the jury were members of the Ku Klux Klan. The result was that the jury was packed with Jim Crow elements.

And at the end of the case the local prosecutor did not even ask for a verdict of guilty, although Shull admitted the crime! Instead the prosecutor said the government would be satisfied with whatever verdict the jury returned — a plain invitation to bring in a verdict acquitting Shull, which the jury did.

Then there was the trial resulting from the lynching of John C. Jones, a Negro veteran, who was turned over to the lynch mob by Benjamin Gantt, police chief of Minden, La. Gantt was indicted by a federal grand jury and the government announced that U. S. Attorney LaFargue would handle the prosecution against him. Hearing of this, the NAACP requested Attorney General Clark to replace him because he was notorious as a Negro-hater. Clark's office answered that this was unnecessary as LaFargue was "competent" and would "vigorously represent the government."

When the case came to court, LaFargue, acting for the government, moved to drop the indictment against Gantt. This was done and Gantt was exonerated without even going to trial!

And the FBI, which never tires of boasting that it caught every Axis agent in the U. S. during the war, has still failed to bring to trila the score of lynchers, well known in the community, who murdered two Negro sharecroppers and their wives near Monroe, Ga., last July.

In the light of these facts showing the government's real attitude toward the lynchers, we can predict with the greatest confidence that Truman's committee will have no more effect than a snowball in hell.

Wallace—A Dangerous Operator

By Joseph Hansen

The Hearst press tags Henry A. Wallace as a bumbling New Deal bureaucrat, a "pinko" out of this world, a "starry-eyed" dreamer incapable of dealing with the hard facts of life.

The **New Republic** paints its new editor in different colors. "No American," it boasts, "can express . . . (the promise of American life) as well and truly as Henry Wallace."

What is the truth about the former Secretary of Agriculture, former Vice-President of the United States and last prominent New Dealer to be kicked out of Truman's cabinet?

Wallace is a dangerous capitalist politician, who understands the class struggle, sees that labor is breaking from the old line capitalist parties, and hopes to corral the insurgent movement in a new type "left of center" capitalist party — if he cannot keep labor behind the bars of the Democratic Party.

His programmatic editorial in the Dec. 16 **New Republic** establishes this beyond doubt.

First of all, Wallace claims he stands as the "proud" inheritor of the "Roosevelt tradition." This is the tradition of skillful demagogy manuevers and minor concessions to labor in order to maintain the capitalist system.

Wallace promises "Jobs, Peace, Freedom." He thus plays on the profoundest desires of the masses in the style of Roosevelt, who freely made similar promises.

"Jobs for all," says Wallace, can be obtained by preventing "a serious depression." But depressions are inseparable from capitalism. The economic welfare of the people can be guaranteed only under a socialist system, which Wallace opposes.

"Peace today," says Wallace, can be obtained by halting "the dangerous drift toward war." He wants "to abolish the causes of war." But he does not say one word about the fundamental economic causes of imperialist war which can be removed only by organizing world socialism. He peddles the fraud of "disarmament" and the long-exploded hope that the capitalist powers can prevent war by accepting "world law."

The lack of "political freedom" Wallace holds to be a "root cause of war." But he seeks to achieve this freedom through the efforts of "men of good will" and not through abolishing the capitalist system that breeds authoritarianism.

Wallace pays lip service to the wishes of the people. He thus hopes to attract their support. But he opposes socialism, the only means of converting these wishes into reality. His purpose is clear. He wants to win leadership of the discontented masses in order to keep them chained to the chariot of Wall Street.

Notes of a Seaman

Problems Of Hours And Wages

By C. Thomas

In last week's article we dealt with the demand for a four-watch system aboard ship as a solution to the problem of unemployment in the industry. We pointed out that the National Council of the National Maritime Union has muddled this slogan by tying it to the demand for a "40-hour week" at sea. What is involved in this question is the problem of wages and hours in the maritime industry.

One of the significant gains of the recent strike movement in maritime was the reduction of the work week at sea from 56 to 48 hours. This reduction in the work-week increased the take-home pay but did not increase the manning scale aboard ship. Men on watch still work 56 hours but are paid overtime for working on Sunday.

The demand for a 40-hour week at sea on the basis of the present eight-hour day is an indirect method of increasing take-home pay but is no solution to the critical problem of unemployment. The four-watch system is based on the six hour day. Therefore the slogan is comparable to the demand of shoreside unions for the 30-hour week with no reduction in pay.

When the demand for a 40-hour week at sea is lumped together with the four-watch system it merely confuses the problem of wages and hours. The series of one-after-another strikes in maritime which extended over a period of three months ended a few weeks ago. Last week the National Maritime Union announced it was submitting new wage demands based on the recent cost-of-living figures released by the CIO. This can be the beginning of another series of wage strikes of longer duration.

Such hard-fought struggles for limited wage demands can exhaust the unions and still leave unsettled the main problem of rapidly growing unemployment in the industry. In an inflationary period, the only realistic solution to the constantly rising cost of living is the sliding scale of wages: an escalator clause in the union contract providing for an automatic wage increase with each increase in living costs.

The slogans under which the fight for wages and employment can be conducted most effectively in the maritime industry today are:

(1) The sliding scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living, and

(2) The four-watch system to increase the manning scale aboard ship.

1946--Year Of Greatest American Class Battles

By George Breitman

1946 was the most eventful year in the history of the American class struggle.

It began with U. S. soldiers overseas staging demonstrations to be released from the Army. It ended with a coal strike which had repercussions all over the world.

In between, a greater number of workers were locked in struggle with the capitalists and the government than in any previous year.

These struggles were the workers' answer to the drastic lowering of their living standards by OPA-granted price rises and by elimination of price ceilings.

The first wave of strikes reached its high point in January when the CIO steel, auto, electrical and packinghouse unions successfully struck the nation's basic industries.

SECOND WAVE

The second wave came in the spring with the shutdown of the mines and railroads. In both cases the government intervened, formally taking over the industry.

In the summer came the great maritime strike, when AFL and CIO unions halted virtually all shipping despite Truman's threat to use the Navy for strikebreaking.

And finally, as the CIO unions were preparing new wage demands, the miners were again forced to strike when the government refused to negotiate a new contract.

1946 showed that labor had emerged from the war with its militancy and boldness intact. The strikes were so effective that in most cases the employers did not even try to operate their plants with scabs.

Labor solidarity hit a new high. Before the top union bureaucrats had time to interfere, local general strikes shut down communities like Stamford, Conn., Rochester, N. Y., Lancaster, Pa., and Oakland, Calif.

Bitter resentment swept the nation when the government broke the rail and mine strikes. Although John L. Lewis and other AFL leaders made no appeal for supporting action, the Detroit AFL unions were calling for the organization of a 24 hour general protest strike to help the miners. Had the coal strike continued, similar plans would have been made elsewhere.

NEW SLOGANS

As the workers saw the government mobilizing all of its agencies for strikebreaking, sentiment developed for joint defensive action by all the unions.

The United Auto Workers during the railroad strike came out for a United Labor Conference in Washington. Pressure from the ranks compelled Philip Murray to call for such a conference in the midst of the mine strike.

This was only one of the new slogans that made progress in labor's ranks during 1946.

Numerous local unions and at least two international CIO bodies adopted the demand for variants of the sliding scale of wages, based on a fixed minimum, to rise as prices rise.

And in the great GM strike at the beginning of the year the whole labor movement and wide sections of the population generally reacted with sympathy to the UAW demand that the corporations "Open the Books."

These struggles, their militancy, solidarity and new slogans, testified to the growing radicalization of the American working class.

But despite its strength, despite its repeatedly demonstrated power to win its demands by shutting down the wheels of industry, labor was not always successful in its fights in 1946.

On two important occasions in particular—in the rail strike and the second mine strike—the government broke the strikes, and the workers failed to gain most of their demands.

But these defeats were far from decisive. The defeated unions remained as strong as ever.

Labor's ranks as a whole, although keenly affected by these defeats, were just as ready to fight as before. The defeat of the rail strike, while disheartening, did not discourage the maritime or mine workers from further struggles with the government.

The smashing of the second mine strike was even more discouraging, because wide labor support was just being mobilized for action as Lewis called off the strike. But even this defeat, which heartened the employers, was immediately followed by CIO demands for higher wages.

It would be foolish to underestimate the effect of these defeats. But it would be even more foolish not to understand that the government has not yet achieved its primary goal.

DEADLOCK UNBROKEN

The deadlock between the two great forces in the country today, organized labor and Big Business, remains unbroken. The government aims to break this deadlock by crippling and cowing the labor movement so that Big Business will be able to turn its full attention to the task of dominating and exploiting the whole world.

Although the breaking of the strike was an important step in this direction, the struggle is unsettled, the issues not yet resolved.

The resistance of the labor movement is very far from broken, as 1947 will surely demonstrate.

POLITICAL LESSONS

The strikes in 1946 tended to develop into political struggles of the first magnitude, although the unions were unprepared to fight on this field. It was a year rich in the political lessons the workers need to study if they are to halt the Big Business offensive.

The workers saw the government lift its masks of impartiality and liberalism when Truman cracked down with vindictive fury on the mine and rail walk outs.

They saw that the courts, their injunctions and fines are all weapons against labor. They saw the White House ready to employ the armed forces against the working people.

They saw Congress, with the two capitalist parties operating as one, adopt a series of anti-labor laws; guarantee Big Business profits; promote inflation; heap taxes on the masses; scuttle the housing program; reject all progressive legislation.

They saw the Truman administration moving steadily to the right, divesting itself of the last spokesmen associated with the New Deal, submitting willingly to the demands of the meat barons and food profiteers.

They saw the bankruptcy of the CIO-PAC policy of depending on liberal capitalist politicians, virtually all of whom voted for Truman's bill to draft strikers.

They saw the Republicans in the 1946 elections pick up most of the protest vote cast by the middle class and a part of the working class because there was no labor party through which they could voice their discontent.

And now they see Truman competing with the Republicans on only one issue: to see which shall have the credit for getting in the next legislative blows against the unions.

Already these lessons have been assimilated by the most progressive sections of labor. A considerable number of local unions are demanding a labor party.

A poll taken just before the November elections showed that 22.6 per cent of all unionists favored creating such a party.

Since the elections and the mine strike sentiment for an independent labor party has grown. The labor bureaucrats remain the main obstacle to forming a labor party. But there are evidences, as in Flint, Mich., that workers will go ahead in 1947 to lay the basis for such a party in local labor strongholds.

LABOR'S ALLIES

1946 was a big year for labor's allies too.

The lower strata of the middle class openly sympathized with labor's cause in the first strike wave. But the labor leaders clung to the discredited Democratic Party and failed to advance a broad social program capable of retaining middle class support.

As a result a large section of the middle class fell under the sway of the propaganda barrage of Big Business and shifted to the Republican Party to express their discontent with conditions under the Democrats.

White collar workers by and large stood on the side of the labor movement and tried in some places to emulate it. Teachers, telephone girls and newspapermen hit the picket lines to win badly needed wage raises.

Foremen, traditionally the agents of employers, began forming their own unions or joined existing unions.

Labor's staunchest allies in 1946 were the Negro people and the veterans of World War II.

The Negroes were still getting hit two ways in 1946—as workers and as an oppressed minority.

But as workers the Negroes now had two million members in the unions, more than half a million of them in the South and still more are joining up.

The Negroes everywhere this year were the best and most loyal fighters on the picket lines. The elimination or easing of discrimination in the plants and unions paid off well for the white as well as the Negro workers.

LYNCH TERROR

At the same time the Negroes were the chief targets of the fascist-like outfits, seeking to create a mass base for eventual use against the labor movement.

A lynch wave left Negro corpses in Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Freeport, N. Y., and elsewhere. But the government did nothing.

Despite this terror, and the lynch incitements of the Bilbos and Talmadges, hundreds of thousands of Negroes went to the polls in the Southern states in 1946. And over 300 took their lives into their hands to testify at a Senate Committee hearing in Jackson, Miss., on how Bilbo and his cohorts had kept them from the polls by intimidation and violence.

VETERANS PICKET

One of the keenest disappointments suffered by Big Business this year was the behavior of the World War II veterans.

Despite the anti-labor propaganda to which they had been subjected in the Army, the soldiers came back from overseas, where hundreds of thousands of them had militantly demanded to be sent home, and grimly took their places on the picket lines.

Far from becoming tools of Big Business, the veterans showed a greater friendliness toward labor than did any other group in the population.

The American labor movement has come a long way since the early Thirties. The obstacles ahead are still great. But study and assimilation of the lessons of the last year will arm the labor movement, teach it the necessity of independent political action and make it as invincible on the political field as it is in purely economic struggles.

Labor Solidarity Won

This was Hartford, Conn. in July, 1946, as workers walked out in the first general strike in the city's history, to support UE workers demanding wage increases.

Hit The Bricks

Seamen in every port walked off the ships in scenes like this, in maritime strikes that tied up the waterfront three times in 1946.

St. Paul Teacher's Strike Solid In Fourth Week

(Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Dec. 21—Despite the stalling tactics of city officials, the teachers' strike here is still solid at the end of its fourth week. With parents and students joining them on the picket lines, teachers have kept every St. Paul public school closed tight. A Teachers Joint Council, representing Locals 28 and 43 of the American Federation of Teachers, is in charge of the strike.

Action on the teachers' demands for higher wages and much needed improvements in the city's school system is now up to the Charter Commission, which has stalled on the strike committee's demand that it "certify to the City Council for election purposes the amendment necessary to finance the better schools program."

Since 12 of the 14 Charter Commission members are real estate dealers, corporation lawyers or business executives, they are well satisfied with the present City Charter, which restricts tax rates. Several hundred members of Parent-Teacher Associations, AFL, CIO and railroad unions, student organizations and civic groups appeared before the Charter Commission to urge speedy action on the school amendment.

Representatives of St. Paul's 2,500 high school seniors have expressed their resentment at the Charter Commission's stalling with a protest march and a leaflet distributed on the downtown streets.

St. Paul's striking teachers have received checks and messages of support from AFT locals throughout the country. Minneapolis teachers, whose projected strike was averted three weeks ago when substantial wage increases were given, sent a check for $1,000. Credit has been given to the St. Paul strikers for the wave of wage increases which have been granted teachers by many local school boards. In Minnesota alone, teachers in 26 school districts have been given wage increases since the St. Paul school strike started on Nov. 25.

Georgia Burial

Two men and two women murdered by KKK terrorists in Georgia, were among many Negro victims of 1946 lynch mobs.

Akron Transit Union Fights Injunction Move

(Special to The Militant)

AKRON, O., Dec. 14—Another attempt to use the injunction to restrict labor's rights is currently being tried here. The Akron Transportation Company, monopoly operator of all buses and street cars in this area has brought suit against Local 1, CIO Transport Workers Union, in an effort to abolish normal collective bargaining over proposed changes in operating schedules.

Encouraged by the federal government's successful use of the injunction against the miners, the transportation company is seeking a restraining order to bar the drivers from bargaining on working conditions.

The company wants a free hand to reduce the number of vehicles in operation and to cut the running time on some of the lines. This would mean further packing of the already overcrowded equipment and speeding up the drivers precisely when service normally is slower because of weather conditions.

ABLE DEFENSE

Ably defending the union's position before a notorious pro-employer judge, TWU Local 1 President William H. Wright showed the union is battling to protect not only its members' health and rights but also the riding public's right to safe and efficient transportation.

During one dramatic session, Wright deftly squelched a company lawyer's attempt to obscure the issues with a red-baiting harangue. When the company attorney leveled the charge of "communism" and "anarchy" at him and other union leaders, Wright replied, "If anybody is an anarchist around here, it is not me but the people who are mismanaging the public transportation of this city."

"I suppose you would like to try managing the business of this company," sneered the lawyer.

"Well," countered Wright, "I don't believe I could possibly make such a mess of the thing as you people have."

The trial was concluded Dec. 12, but the verdict has not yet been announced. No one in the Akron labor movement, however, has any doubts or illusions concerning what the court's ruling will be.

Recognizing that the fight is just beginning, the Akron CIO Council has adopted a series of motions to lay the basis for a powerful pressure campaign on officials of the municipalities who have authority to revoke the franchise and who can be compelled to do by an aroused labor movement should the company persist in its vicious union-busting campaign.